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WEEKEND EDITION MARCH 14-15, 2020

Tomorrow's weather 45 | 30



Online paywall removed for Wabash Plain Dealer stories on COVID-19

On the Wabash Plain Dealer's website, the paywall for stories related to COVID-19 has been removed. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates.

Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Wabash Friends Church cancels Sunday services

As a precautionary measure due to COVID-19, church services for this Sunday are canceled at Wabash Friends Church. The pastor's sermon will be available on social media. Future decisions regarding services will be made weekly.

'Can we talk?' event planned for March 14

The show "Can we talk?" is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. The event is free to the public. A freewill donation will go toward Heifer International. For more information about the event, call 260-982-7523 or visit www.manchestercob.net.

Intermediate two-day stained-glass scheduled

A two-day intermediate class instructed by local stained-glass artist Katy Gray will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15 at Salamonie Interpretive and Nature Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. All participants of this class must have had recent, prior stained glass cutting and smoothing experience. The cost is \$40. The

See PULSE, page A3

Inside

Community, A5 Milestones, A6 Classified, B6 Obituaries, A3 Comics, B4 Sports, B1 Crossword, B4 Viewpoint, A4



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Schools, organizations closing over COVID-19 concerns

Parkview issues new visitor restrictions at hospital

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

ential gatherings to no more than 250 people, several local schools and organizations have announced closings and postponements.

St. Bernard School closes

Given the continued spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and multiple confirmed cases within the diocese, the Catholic Schools Office has announced the closing of all 43 Catholic Schools

within the 14-county service area effective Monday, March 16, and for a minimum of three weeks, according to Jennifer Simerman, secretary for communications.

A set date has not been established for the re-opening of our schools. Additionally, all after-school and extracurricular activities are suspended until further notice.

In response to a Plain Dealer request Friday, St. Bernard

School confirmed this announcement also applied to them.

"The diocese has been, and will continue to be, in constant communication and follow the directives of local health authorities, the Indiana Department of Health, the Indiana Department of Education, the CDC and the Indiana Governor's office," stated Simerman.

Beginning Monday, March 16, school officials will be working with staff members from all of 43 schools to finalize plans for eLearning or distance learning for our students. Parents should watch for communications from their principals for more information.

"The health and safety of our students, staff, and their families is of utmost importance" stated Dr. Joe Brettnacher, superintendent of Catholic

See CLOSING, page A6

Smithsonian exhibit includes North Manchester as part of six-town Indiana tour



Photos provided

North Manchester will be the next stop on the Indiana tour of the Smithsonian's Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit.

Display about rural America powered by Indiana Humanities

STAFF REPORT

North Manchester will be the next stop on the Indiana tour of the Smithsonian's Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit, according to a press release.

Part of Indiana Humanities' INseparable initiative, the exhibit will be at the North Manchester Center for History in Wabash County from March 21 to May 3. The interactive display tracks the national ebb and flow of rural America from farming to industrialization to the digital age.

The grand opening of the Crossroads exhibit in North Manchester will begin at 11 a.m. March 21,

with a ribbon-cutting at 1 p.m. and live music from 2 to 4 p.m. The opening will coincide with the unveiling of Jeff Diesburg's art show "Between Rows and Horizon."

While the Smithsonian exhibit shows the national changes in rural life, a local exhibit developed by the North Manchester Center for History focuses on the effects of school consolidations and developments in agriculture on this Wabash County community.

"We are thrilled to be able to share our story," stated Laura Rager, director of the Center for History.

"Change creates opportunities and how we

embrace those opportunities becomes the heart and soul of our community."

Visitors can see the exhibit from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Part of Indiana Humanities' INseparable initiative, the exhibit will be at the North Manchester Center for History in Wabash County from March 21 to May 3.

See EXHIBIT, page A3

In response to a Plain Dealer request on Friday, Joe Loughmiller, external affairs manager, stated Indiana American Water would be placing a moratorium and discontinuing service shut-offs at this time.

"We will continue to evaluate this moratorium as more information becomes available," he stated. "Additionally, Indiana American Water will begin the restoration of service to previously shut-off customers. The restoration may take some time, but we will work as quickly and safely as possible. If your service has been turned off, before March 12, we will restart your service. Indiana American Water has been focused on two high priorities as the spread of the coronavirus has evolved – the health and safety of our employees and the health and safety of our customers. As such, Indiana American Water will also be suspending all non-essential field appointments and will limit the amount and nature of contact with customers during all emergency field appointments."

Loughmiller stated this was the first time he was aware of they had ever taken this action.

"Maybe in an isolated circumstance of very cold weather, but would have to

See WATER, page A3

6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

See EXHIBIT, page A3

NMPL reschedules St. Paddy's Golden Egg Hunt

Originally scheduled for Saturday, the event has been moved to June 13

STAFF REPORT

Following Gov. Eric Holcomb's announcement Thursday of new measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, and after much consideration, the North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) has decided to follow the lead of the state and postpone the St. Paddy's Golden Egg Hunt, accord-

ing to Jeanna Hann, adult department manager and marketing coordinator.

"Hundreds of Easter eggs have been hidden throughout the library and we need your help to find them," read the event's original description. "Search throughout the library to find eggs filled with candy and toys. You can even win a special prize if you find a golden egg. Please bring your basket or bag for your eggs."

The free all-ages event was originally scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday.

"We take the health and safety of our patrons very

seriously, and we feel it would be the safest course of action to move the egg hunt to the summer," stated Hamm.

The event, now a "Summer Reading Themed Egg Hunt," has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, June 13.

"We thank all our patrons for understanding and supporting NMPL. As of this time, NMPL has no plans to close or alter hours or services. We intend to continue the rest of our regularly scheduled in-house programming for the time being," stated Hann.

Beacon Credit Union cancels 89th Annual Shareholders Meeting

The 2019 Annual Report will be posted online

STAFF REPORT

Beacon Credit Union has decided to comply with Gov. Eric Holcomb and "with the safety of our members in mind" to postpone this year's Annual Meeting until further notice, according to a press release.

Holcomb announced steps to reduce the spread of the coronavirus by limiting essential gatherings to no more than 250 people.

"Currently, we have not determined the final arrangements for the meeting. Once the details have been finalized, they will be shared with the membership," stated the release.

The 2019 Annual Report will be posted at beaconcu.org.

The 89th Annual Shareholders Meeting of Beacon Credit Union was to be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 16 in the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater.

"We appreciate your support as we take this action," stated the release.

Georgia's high court rules DNA evidence warrants new trial

By RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Georgia's highest court ruled Friday that an inmate serving a life sentence for a slaying 43 years ago deserves a new trial after recent DNA tests cast "significant doubt" on his guilt.

Johnny Lee Gates, 63, was convicted of murder, rape and robbery in the November 1976 fatal shooting of 19-year-old Katharina Wright in a Columbus apartment where she lived with her husband, an Army soldier at nearby Fort Benning. Wright's hands were bound with the white belt from her bathrobe, and black neckties were used as a gag and blindfold.

The state Supreme Court's ruling upholds a January 2019 decision by a lower court ordering a new trial for Gates, citing testing that showed Gates' DNA was not on the fabric used to bind Wright. The judge also found that prosecutors at Gates' trial purposely excluded black jurors, but said that evidence came too late for consideration as grounds for a new trial.

Attorneys for the state appealed the decision by Muscogee County Superior Court Judge John Allen. They argued the judge had "abused his discretion" by concluding the DNA evidence would likely have produced a different verdict.

The state Supreme Court found the judge had good reason to find the DNA evidence compelling. Justice Charles J. Bethel wrote in the high court's decision that prosecutors made a strong case at Gates' 1977 trial, where evidence included two confessions by Gates — including one on videotape — and an eyewitness who placed Gates at the scene of the slaying.

"Nevertheless, the newly discovered DNA evidence now available to Gates casts significant doubt on the State's theory that Gates was

the perpetrator," Bethel wrote. The decision said the DNA testing "directly undermines Gates' connection to a central assumption of the State's case: that the person who bound Wright's hands was the same person who murdered her."

District Attorney Julia Slatner did not immediately respond to an email and phone message seeking comment Friday.

Gates was convicted and sentenced to death in August 1977. The sentence was later changed to life in prison without parole because he was found to be intellectually disabled. It's against state and federal law to execute people with intellectual disability.

Gates long maintained his innocence in handwritten court filings.

Two interns with the Georgia Innocence Project went to the district attorney's office in July 2015 to review the case file. Police and prosecutors had previously said there was no physical evidence to test, and the interns expected to find documents saying the evidence in the case had been destroyed or to find nothing at all.

But one of them found a lumpy manila envelope that said it contained a bathrobe belt and neckties. Inside were pieces of white and

black fabric.

Innocence Project lawyers asked a judge to allow the items to be tested, saying the killer's DNA would have rubbed off on them while the killer was tying up Wright. After the testing, Gates' lawyers presented evidence at a hearing last year that showed his DNA was not on the items. The Southern Center for Human Rights, along with the Innocence Project, last year argued that Gates was also entitled to a new trial because prosecutors in the judicial circuit where he was tried purposely and systematically excluded black jurors from the trials of black men facing the death penalty in the late 1970s.

Gates, who is black, was convicted by an all-white jury. The court last year ordered the state to turn over prosecutors' jury selection notes.

Gates' attorneys discovered that prosecutors had written "W" next to the names of white prospective jurors and "N" next to the names of black prospective jurors and also put dots in the margins next to black prospective jurors' names, they said in a court filing in March. Black prospective jurors were described in the notes as "slow," "old + ignorant," "cocky," "con artist," "hostile" and "fat."



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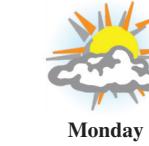
5-Day Weather Summary



Saturday
Rain & Snow
Possible
39 / 29



Sunday
Sunny
45 / 30



Monday
Partly Cloudy
46 / 38



Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy
50 / 37



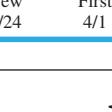
Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy
54 / 46

Sun and Moon

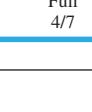
Today's sunset 7:54 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:58 a.m.



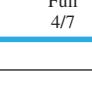
Last
3/16



New
3/24



First
4/1



Full
4/7

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 55% chance of rain and snow, high of 39°, humidity of 67%. Northeast wind 3 to 10 mph. Snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 55% chance of scattered rain, overnight low of 29°. North northeast wind 7 to 11 mph.

Offset thoughts of mortality with positive reflection

DEAR HARRIETTE: I know that people die all the time in life, but I feel like too many people I am connected to personally are dying right now. From little kids to former colleagues to a neighbor to a friend's elderly father, it feels like everybody is dying.

Harriette Cole
Sense &
Sensitivity

I'm scared to answer the phone these days because I'm afraid that it will be one more of those awful calls. It's overwhelming. I am so worried that someone else I love is next. How can I manage these anxious feelings that I have? I know I can't control who lives or dies, but I need to get a handle on how I am dealing with it all. — Staring Down Death

DEAR STARING DOWN DEATH: First, I want to acknowledge the weight of your losses. It can be extremely difficult to know that many people you love have left the world. Since this is wearing on your spirit, you may want to seek grief counseling to help you process it. There is no shame in getting support as you work through this.

Beyond professional counseling, you can also make conscious choices to engage in activities that stimulate you and bring you joy. Exercise is a way to encourage good feelings and promote good health. Participating in events with friends who are uplifting is wise. Reading an engaging and positive book can help. Write down aphorisms and post them in your home in strategic places. When you are feeling down, you can turn to one of them to brighten your day.

In quiet moments, you can also think about each of the people you have lost and offer prayers and blessings to them. Remember the good things about them and what they contributed to you and the world. Claim the positive. This can help you release them in an uplifting way.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I just learned that my niece is having a baby. She is my second niece to decide to

have a baby without being married. I guess I am old-fashioned, but I really do think it is going to be hard on her without the proper support. The family will rally, but I've already seen with my other niece that such support goes only so far, especially in a family that doesn't have much money.

I want to recommend that my niece give the baby up for adoption. I think it will be better off in a loving home where there are resources to take care of the child. My family thinks I'm crazy to make such a suggestion. When I do the math, I don't see another way. Should I do the breakdown on paper to show my niece what I mean, or should I leave it alone?

— Encouraging Adoption
DEAR ENCOURAGING ADOPTION: Tread carefully. Unless your niece asks you directly what you think she should do, you should keep your thoughts to yourself. If the opportunity presents itself, you can talk to her about the future. You can recommend that she list specific ways she intends to align with her ideas. She stands a chance of being successful if she has a plan.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyle and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to ask harriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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Obituaries

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Edna Mae Newman

Feb. 22, 1930 - Mar. 11, 2020

Edna Mae Newman, 90, of rural La Fontaine, Indiana, died at 10:56 a.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. She was born February 22, 1930 in Wabash County, Indiana to Leo and Ellen Lucille (Pegg) Futrell.

Edna was a 1947 graduate of LaFontaine High School. She married Wilbur Dean Newman in Wabash on June 21, 1959; he died November 14, 2008. She worked 25 years at Kroger Egg in Wabash until it closed in April of 1982. Edna was a member of the Washington Street Wesleyan Church in Wabash and since its closure, has attended the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Marion. She enjoyed reading her Bible, cooking, baking, noodle making, and especially enjoyed her granddaughter.

She is survived by two children, Greg (Regina) Newman of La Fontaine, and Kimberly A. Newman of Phoenix, Arizona, and her step son, Jerry Newman of North Manchester, Indiana, one granddaughter, Amy (Darran) Cornett of Milton, Florida, three step grandchildren, Diane Newman, Tammy (Brad) Morris, and Kelly (Anthony) DeLaughter, five step great grandchildren, two sisters, Grace Sirk of Mattawan, Michigan, and Margaret Big-



ger of LaFontaine, and her brother, Charles (Norma) Futrell of Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Leo Futrell, Jr. and her sister, Helen Rhoads.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastors Steve Hudson and Phil Harris officiating. Burial will be in Gardens of Memory Cemetery, in rural Huntington County, Indiana. Friends may call 2 - 8 p.m., Monday, at the funeral home. Preferred memorial is the Pilgrim Holiness Church, Marion, Indiana.

The memorial guest book for Edna may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Emma's House offers women safe place to live, and stay sober

By DEBORAH LAVERTY
The Times

GARY — Tonya Johnson cuddled close her 1-month-old daughter, McKenzie, after picking her up from her bassinet.

McKenzie fussed a little but Johnson, a first-time mom, seemed to know instinctively how to soothe her baby by giving her a pacifier while standing in the doorway of the bedroom they share at Emma's House.

"I got out of jail in December, and she was born one month later," Johnson said.

Johnson, 30, had been a heavy drug user, even using heroin, when she found out she was six months pregnant with her daughter, she said.

Thanks to a referral from Lake County Court Administrated Alcohol and Drug Service, Johnson was given the opportunity to stay at Emma's House, a transition house for women.

Now Johnson has been clean and sober since her Dec. 12 move-in date and is grateful for a second chance,

including a future that promises the possibility of a place to live and a place to work.

"Everything will fall into place. I changed everything for this girl," Johnson said, holding close her baby daughter.

It is for women like Johnson that Emma's House, a remodeled home at 616 Maryland St., was opened close to two years ago, Pastor Michael Pirtle said.

Pirtle and his wife, Linda Pirtle, formed The City of Refuge Christian Church about 14 years ago, working with community partners of Northwest Indiana toward a common goal to end homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and poverty.

About 12 women can live in Emma's House at a time, but they must stay clean and sober while there or they can be removed, Pirtle said.

During the time the women are there, volunteers help them look for permanent housing and employment.

"This is not a homeless shelter. We're a recovery home," Pirtle said.

inactivating viruses. Our water meets all current federal and state drinking water requirements," he stated. "To minimize the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19), we have initiated our business continuity plans to help provide additional stability to our operations that include water/wastewater services to your homes and businesses. Indiana American Water continues to monitor situational updates provided by the Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization as well as other state and federal organizations. We are continuously evaluating the situation and latest developments to determine how we can adopt and amend measures, as necessary, to support our customers and communities we serve and our employees."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

WATER

From page A1

research that," he stated. "The number of people currently shutoff in Wabash is fairly small – probably less than 10. We do not have a date certain right now to end the practice, but will continue to monitor and assess the coronavirus situation."

Loughmiller stated they have taken precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through their water.

"You need to know that Indiana American Water's drinking water treatment barriers provide protection that includes filtration and disinfection of our surface water supplies (e.g., those from lakes, reservoirs, or rivers) and disinfection of our groundwater sources (e.g., underground wells). These treatments are effective in removing and/or

inactivating viruses. Our water meets all current federal and state drinking water requirements," he stated. "To minimize the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19), we have initiated our business continuity plans to help provide additional stability to our operations that include water/wastewater services to your homes and businesses. Indiana American Water continues to monitor situational updates provided by the Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization as well as other state and federal organizations. We are continuously evaluating the situation and latest developments to determine how we can adopt and amend measures, as necessary, to support our customers and communities we serve and our employees."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

EXHIBIT

From page A1

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday through May 3.

In addition to hosting the exhibit, the museum will also host several free programs for the public, including:

■ Local Folk(s) concert featuring local musicians on March 28.

■ Remembering History" lecture with local historian Pete Jones on April 11.

■ Artist talk with Manchester University's Jeff Diesburg on April 25.

■ Closing celebration with food, music and more on May 2.

There will also be several art workshops for kids and families offered during the exhibit's six-week visit.

Visit www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org for a full list of programs.

The exhibit is part of the Museum on Main Street program, a division of the Smithsonian that brings

high-quality exhibits and resources to rural communities. After North Manchester, the exhibit's sixth and final Indiana stop is at the University of Southern Indiana/Historic New Harmony in Posey County, May 9 to June 21.

Each community hosts the exhibit for six weeks and receives training, funding and other resources from the Smithsonian and Indiana Humanities. The Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs and the Indiana Historical Society also provided mentoring and advice to local exhibit teams.

Host organizations receive a \$2,000 grant from Indiana Humanities to cover costs associated with the development of the local component for the exhibit, including design, fabrication and more.

Another eight sites were awarded \$1,500 grants to develop programs, mini-exhibits and other projects related to the themes of the Crossroads

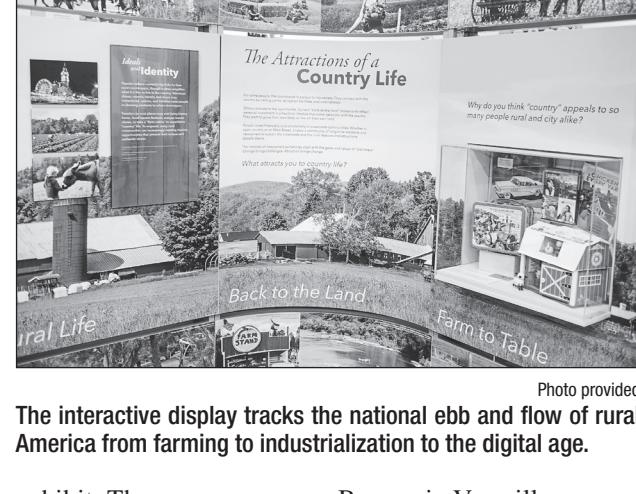


Photo provided
The interactive display tracks the national ebb and flow of rural America from farming to industrialization to the digital age.

exhibit. They are:

■ Greentown Historical Society in Howard County.

■ Harrison County Discovery Center in Corydon.

■ Jasper Community Arts in Dubois County.

■ Lawrenceburg Main Street in Dearborn County.

■ Marshall County Historical Society in Plymouth.

■ New Carlisle-Olive Twp. Public Library in St. Joseph County.

■ Ripley County Tourism

Bureau in Versailles.

■ Wabash County Historical Museum in Wabash.

"Indiana Humanities brought the Crossroads exhibit to Indiana as part of its two-year INseparable initiative. INseparable invites Hoosiers to explore how we relate to each other across boundaries, real or imagined, and consider what it will take to indeed be inseparable, in all the ways that matter," stated the release.

PULSE

From page A1

project will be a bee on a coneflower. Call 260-468-2127 for registration or questions.

St. Trolley's Day Tour on sale

Visit Wabash County has announced that tickets for the St. Trolley's Day Tour happening Saturday, March 14 are available for purchase. Tour times offered are 6, 6:30 or 7 p.m. and will last about two hours. The St. Trolley's Day Tour is \$25 per person and all-inclusive.

To register for this tour, visit www.VisitWabashCounty.com and click on Tours/Trolley Rental. You may also stop in the Welcome Center at 221 S. Miami St., or call 260-563-7171. Tickets are \$25 per person and is due upon registration. You must be 21 or older to participate in this tour.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day postponed

The Wabash Kiwanis Club's annual Pancake Day fundraiser, the service organization's biggest annual fundraiser, was originally scheduled from 6 a.m. to

2 p.m. Saturday, March 14,

at the Bob Elrod Exhibit Hall, located just off of Gililen Avenue at the Wabash County 4-H Fairgrounds.

The Wabash Kiwanis Club Board of Directors has officially voted to postpone Pancake Day to a later date, which will be determined as soon as possible.

Adult mental Health First Aid training planned

Purdue Extension will offer Adult Mental Health First Aid training from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 at the Wabash REMC Community Room, 350 Wedcor Ave.

The Mental Health First Aid program is open to any adult.

For more information, visit www.extension.purdue.edu/mhfa or contact Mindy Mayes by email at mayes7@purdue.edu or by phone at 260-663-0661 ext. 1408.

Farmers market season set to begin

Applications are open to potential vendors.

Vendors are accepted for a full season, half-season and one-time rates.

An informational call-out meeting will occur at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18 inside Chapman's Taproom, 233 S. Miami St. Downtown Wabash Farmers

Market opens from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elk's Parking Lot.

The market occurs every Saturday through Sept. 26.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor or volunteering at the event, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

Rotary Club of

North Manchester cancels its March

19 meeting

The Rotary Club of North Manchester has canceled its Thursday, March 19

meeting. The group will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and hopes to meet as scheduled on March 26 at the North Manchester Center for History, 122 E. Main St., North Manchester.

NMCH to host

Smithsonian

traveling exhibit

The North Manchester Center for History will be hosting the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit, "Crossroads:

Change in Rural America" from March 21 to May 3.

Tour and visit St. Bernard Elementary School during March

Tour and visit St. Bernard Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. any Monday or Wednesday during March at 191 N. Cass St.

The school is enrolling grades pre-kindergarten

through sixth grades. For

more information call Pam

Dyer at 260-563-5746.

Manchester University to honor Steve Ford at 2020 Commencement

Manchester University will honor Steve Ford, president and chief executive officer of the Ford Meter Box, on Saturday, May 16, at both the morning and afternoon commencement exercises.

WCPL plans summer reading, 'Bash Con'

'Bash Con' is set to last

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, June 26 at 188 W.

Hill St. 'Bash Con's theme

for this year is "Imagine Your Story"

and free booth space is available for artists and vendors.

Amateur artists are encouraged and welcomed.

To register, visit <https://www.wabash.lib.in.us/bash-con>.

For more information, call 260-563-2972.

Editor's note: If you have

an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com

no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Create glass-on-glass framed mosaic image inspired by nature

The multi-day classes

will be held at the

Wabash Plain Dealer

in Wabash, Indiana.

For more information, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young,
R-Ind.**

B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun,
R-Ind.**

B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski,
R-District 2**

419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay,
R-District 17**

Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. David Wolkins,
R-District 18**

Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Ephesians 6:10

Trump confronted with the crisis of his presidency

There is a term that is often used in a different context but comes to the forefront of our minds as the coronavirus rolls through the layers of our society. Coronavirus has gone viral in our politics, in our economy and, of course, our public health arenas.

Schools are closing. Professional sports events are being canceled. And as Karina Maria, one of the hosts of the morning show on "Hot 93.3" FM said the other day, people are a little scared to even go to work. Fear of a viral infection has gone viral, and one immediate consequence is an economic hit for companies and employees. Employers are watching productivity fall, and employees are wondering how they will make rent if they can't go to work.

A health crisis is also an economic crisis for individuals and, should it last long enough, it can become a crisis for society as a whole. Some economists estimate a relatively mild pandemic would cut 2020 gross domestic product dramatically, and warn that the spread of the coronavirus has sharply increased the prospects of a recession.

This is a watershed moment for this president's leadership.

In an address from the Oval Office on Wednesday, President Donald Trump stepped up to offer several encouraging ideas. He noted a new spending bill he signed into law last week, and said he instructed the Small Business Administration to offer loans to affected businesses. He called for payroll tax relief, noted that he spoke to health care executives who would extend coverage and dispense with some fees, and mentioned providing financial support for people who need to self-quarantine.

These are important steps, to which we would add another step that's well within the president's power. He could discard his tariffs to give companies

and consumers additional relief from unnecessary expenses and broadly boost the economy at a time when the stock market has dipped into bear territory. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and a growing list of industries recognize this, and want tariff relief included in any stimulus package. In the best of times, tariffs inhibit growth and raise costs. And these aren't the best of times.

What was missing from the president's speech was a broader strategic vision for how this virus is brought to an end. It is too soon to say precisely how that will happen, of course. And the president did mention the need to wash hands and take practical steps to avoid getting sick. But the larger strategic objective has to be to slow the spread of the virus and thereby buy time for our health care industry to care for those who do get sick while also developing a vaccine. Simply slowing the spread of the virus is crucial, because doing so can enable our health care infrastructure to handle what comes from this virus.

Another key step is for Americans not to panic or overreact. Doing so can create shortages and tax resources that are best directed toward specific targets. If test kits, financial supports and resources best given to state and local authorities are used efficiently, we will all be better served. And that point is worth expanding to say that even while economic help is needed in some areas, there is no substitute for aggressive testing, containment and mitigation of coronavirus cases.

It should also be obvious, even to Congress, that the federal government has to act quickly. Financial relief has to quickly reach people in need and medical officials need quick decisions and resources to combat this problem.

Nonetheless, economic growth

is already taking a hit from the coronavirus, and that impact must not be minimized. Businesses are planning for substantial profit and revenue setbacks, so any stimulus package must be of sufficient size to address specific problems and offer a sense of calm across the broader economy. This will work out, but it's much more likely to work out without lasting damage if the federal government has a handle on the issue as a whole, if Americans across the country believe that those in charge have the right vision, and if that vision is being executed effectively.

To that end, the announced European travel ban undercut the chance to lead here. Restricting travel and quarantining the sick are age-old methods for slowing and stopping the spread of a contagious disease, and they remain among our defenses because they are effective. But the United States needs the support of its allies in Europe, so blindsiding them with a sudden ban will have unforeseen consequences.

More importantly, it's not obvious why the president imposed the ban on some countries and not others. Something as disruptive as a travel ban needs to be attached to a thoughtful and thorough strategy. It has to make intuitive sense, otherwise it is just divisive and distracting from work that would make a difference.

We needed the president's speech to mark a turning point away from false narratives, so that medical experts and other parts of government could be freed up to do what they need to do. A day after the speech, it seems clear that's not what we got. The White House will never have a better opportunity to lead on this issue than it has right now, so it needs to revise its approach.

A version of this editorial was first published in the Dallas Morning News.



Indiana hospital prices are twice as high as Michigan's

By AL HUBBARD

In a recent study, the RAND Corporation compared Indiana's hospital prices with those in 24 other states, finding that our prices are the highest. Indiana's hospitals receive payments 311 percent higher than what Medicare pays. This is nearly 30 percent higher than the 25-state average of 241 percent. The study also found that hospital prices are twice as high in Indiana as those in neighboring Michigan – creating a competitive disadvantage for our state.

Virtually all economists believe that employees bear the entire burden of health insurance premiums, with the employer share drawn from worker wages. According to one estimate, lowering Indiana's hospital prices to the national average would save the average Hoosier family \$2,600 per year.

Last summer, we assembled a team of health policy experts and economists to study this issue and make recommendations for Hoosier policymakers and employers. The first aim was to find reforms Indiana can enact this year, centered on creating a more transparent healthcare system. People have the right to know what their care will cost before they receive it, just like they do in every other part of the economy.

We're recommending four major reforms. First, Indiana's hospitals and insurers must

provide patients with good faith and understandable estimates in advance of receiving care. These estimates must include all charges, including those for doctors, images, labs, drugs, and the facility.

Second, Indiana's hospitals must publicize bundled healthcare prices for routine services in a consumer-friendly format. Employers developing benefit plans and consumers looking to shop across a variety of alternative providers need price information to make the best possible decisions.

Third, the legislature should prohibit Hoosiers from receiving surprise bills when they go to an in-network facility. It is deeply unfair when patients go to a facility covered by their insurer, yet they receive out-of-network charges. To its credit, Indianapolis-based Community Health Network told us that it does not allow these types of bills – an indication that hospitals, doctors, and insurers can solve this problem.

The hardest surprise billing problem to solve is emergency care provided at out-of-network facilities. In these cases, the legislature should limit patients' out-of-pocket responsibility to in-network amounts and utilize existing federal rules for determining reasonable compensation for providers.

Fourth, Hoosiers should be protected against inaccurate billing practices. If you go to

a doctor's office and receive services there, you should not be charged the same rate as if you went to the hospital. The legislature can and should pass legislation requiring hospitals to use a non-hospital/professional services claim form for services that are provided at a non-hospital facility. Healthcare services provided at a non-hospital facility are typically 40 percent less expensive than if they were provided at a hospital.

This is the most contentious of our proposals because it means millions of dollars in immediate savings for Hoosiers instead of millions of dollars in profit for hospitals.

We also believe that the state should take other important steps to increase transparency, including disclosure of broker fees, elimination of gag clauses and publishing all payers claims data.

The problem of high healthcare prices in Indiana has been decades in the making and blame belongs to hospitals, insurers, the government, and employers. Greater transparency will not solve the problem by itself, but it is a crucial first step to a better and less costly healthcare system for Hoosier families and businesses.

Al Hubbard is chairman of Indianapolis-based E&A Companies and chairman of Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare, a coalition created to advocate for nonpartisan public policy to lower healthcare costs for Hoosiers.

Nikki Haley picks a worthy fight with anti-capitalist Republicans

Hyphenated capitalism is not capitalism at all. The better name for it is socialism lite.

— Nikki Haley

A sound heard recently on Pennsylvania Avenue was a gauntlet being thrown down by a woman spoiling for a fight. Nikki Haley went on offense in defense of

**George
Will**



America's economic system, which she correctly says is inextricably woven into the nation's system of liberty. Some Democratic presidential aspirants and a portion of the public have been flirting with socialism, and some conspicuous Republicans might as well be while they are promoting "hyphenated capitalism."

Speaking in a manner bracingly unusual in this city, Haley minced no words: "The American system is capitalism." Although "the Founders never used the word, they gave us capitalism in all but the name," because capitalism is "another word for freedom. And it springs from America's most cherished ideals." The Founders understood something the Supreme Court has forgotten for eight decades: Economic freedom is, like freedom of speech and free exercise of religion, a fundamental right. Capitalism has "lifted up more people, unlocked more progress, and unleashed more prosperity" than any other system, yet "many people avoid saying that word, including some conservatives and business leaders."

Haley said the Business Roundtable, which represents major corporations, wants companies to "focus not on business, but on some vague notion of helping 'stakeholders,'" meaning customers, employees and communities. "This," Haley said astutely, "is puzzling." Companies that do not serve their customers, reward their workers and serve their communities will fail – unless abusive or incompetent companies are saved by misguided government policies. Such business-government entanglement breeds cronyism, self-dealing and bailouts from taxpayers.

"Some conservatives," Haley said, "have turned against the market system. They tell us America needs a ... different kind of capitalism. A hyphenated capitalism. Yet while these critics keep the word capitalism, they lose its meaning. They want to give government more power to make more decisions for businesses and workers. They differ from the socialists only in degree."

She did not need to specify Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio's aspiration for "common-good capitalism," or Missouri Republican Sen. Josh Hawley's even vaguer capitalism that does not encourage "Pelagianism" and the "Promethean self." Really. Such conservatives inevitably advocate, in effect, government "industrial policy," socialism's essential ingredient.

"Only in a prosperous country like America," Haley said, "can people be so flippant about capitalism and so naive about socialism." She has stood on the Simon Bolivar Bridge connecting Venezuela and Colombia:

"I watched thousands of Venezuelans go by. Entire families walking in the blazing heat for hours to get to Colombia where they would have the only meal they would eat that day. The average Venezuelan lost 24 pounds in 2017 alone. Four million have fled their homeland. ... it was the richest country in Latin America when it was capitalist. It also had free and fair elections. Now Venezuelans are digging in trash cans and killing zoo animals for food."

The daughter of Indian immigrants, Haley was ambassador to the United Nations in the feisty manner of Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Jeane Kirkpatrick. Before that she was a resoundingly successful two-term governor of South Carolina. And before that she was a businesswoman in Bamberg, South Carolina (population then: 2,500). If a businesswoman can be 12.

Haley's mother did what so many immigrants do: She started a business, a retail clothing and gift store. There came a time when her bookkeeper, who was leaving without having found a replacement, asked what she could do. Haley remembers:

"I happened to be walking past at that exact moment. My mom grabbed my arm and said, 'Train her. She can do it.' By the time I was 13 I was doing taxes, keeping the ledger, and balancing the expenses and bank account. It wasn't until I got to college that I realized that wasn't normal."

Normal is overrated. Haley is not.

The \$20 billion in new capital investment she attracted to South Carolina as governor included five international tire companies, and Mercedes, Volvo and BMW plants. The world's largest BMW plant is one reason why South Carolina builds more cars for export than any other state. Haley is one reason South Carolina has changed more, and more for the better, than any state in the previous 50 years.

Haley spoke at the Hudson Institute, which is at 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. It is about 900 yards from 1600. Anyone's path to that place is long and circuitous, but one way to begin is by picking a worthy fight.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

HISTORY

Today is Saturday, March 14, the 74th day of 2020.

There are 292 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On March 14, 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized America's cotton industry.

On this date:

In 1883, German political philosopher Karl Marx died in London at age 64.

In 1885, the Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera "The Mikado" premiered at the Savoy Theatre in London.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an executive order designed to prevent Japanese laborers from immigrating to the United States as part of a "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan.

In 1962, Democrat Edward M. Kennedy officially launched in Boston his successful candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat from Massachusetts once held by his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, and sentenced him to death.

Community

'It's all history now'

One hundred and 10 years ago this month, folks here were eagerly searching for signs of spring. The winter of 1909-1910 had been severe, with lots of snow and ice and long stretches of bitterly cold weather. Dozens of people had been badly hurt in falls on the ice, and at least two died because of those injuries. It was no wonder that almost any event that even hinted at the end of winter was considered front-page news by the two newspapers that were here in 1910.

In the years before wild geese made the area a year-round home, it was always a subject of conversation when large V-shaped formations of the migrating birds were spotted high in the sky. Such was the case a century ago when this page-one item appeared in The Plain Dealer in early March:

"A flock of wild geese passed over Wabash Friday flying northwest. The birds were flying very high, but they could be heard as they winged their way toward the northern feeding grounds where they will spend the summer."

And, a day or two later, that large numbers of ducks were returning to the vast Kankakee Marsh in northwestern Indiana. "Barton Mallott, of La Fontaine, who is spending the shooting season at the Kankakee Marsh, writes that hunting promises to be excellent this year," reported the newspaper.

Just over the line in Miami County, the Wallace Circus was beginning to rouse from its long layover at the show's winter quarters south of Peru. "Ben Wallace

is figuring on opening the 1910 season on April 23, when two performances will be given in Peru before the circus takes to the road for the season," said the PD.

Men in the train car sheds in Peru were repairing the show's rolling stock while others worked in the carpenter shops at the winter quarters building new circus wagons and painting and fixing old ones.

Yet another sign of spring appeared on the desk of the editor of The Wabash Times-Star, the Plain Dealer's rival. "J.S. Pyle, living about two miles east of the city, was in town today and presented the editor with a fine jar of very good maple syrup," said the paper. "Mr. and Mrs. Pyle have tapped about 150 trees this season," the story read.

The winter had been long and hard, but there was at least one benefit from the intense cold. Even though the winter of 1909-1910 brought hardship, injury, and even death to Wabash County residents, the season provided an abundance of ice which was harvested from area lakes and ponds. This ice, properly stored, was used to fill ice boxes in homes throughout the following summer.

Pete Jones writes a weekly column on local history for the Wabash Plain Dealer. He writes about people, places and events in and around Wabash County. Contact him by mail at 1160 Sunset Drive, Wabash, IN 46992 or by email at peteinwabash@comcast.net.

WEEKLY EVENTS

GriefShare support group meets Wednesdays

GriefShare grief recovery support group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the Congregational Christian Church, 310 N. Walnut St., North Manchester. Participant workbooks can be purchased for \$15. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, call 260-982-2882.

AYC opens weekly after school program at a second location

Access Youth Center (AYC) has recently expanded to a second south side location for a weekly after school program. Food, games, homework help are available 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays at the main entrance of New Journey Church, formerly WC Mills School, 1721 N. Vernon St. It is a free program for students ages 8 to 18. Parents and guardians are also welcome.

Line Dance scheduled each Wednesday

Led by Sherry Wakefield at 8:45 a.m. every Wednesday, at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. Dancing that is both fun and free. No fee, no registration, just fun.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

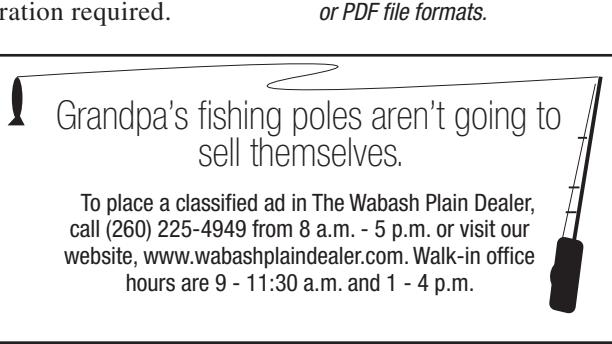
Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

DivorceCare to meet every Tuesday

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to a press release.

The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St. on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.



Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR holds March meeting

Next meeting scheduled for April 14 at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room

Staff REPORT

The monthly meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) took place on Tuesday, March 10 at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room, Wabash, according to a press release.

The meeting opened with the DAR ritual.

Devotions were on Nature's Creed. The March President General's message from Denise Doring VanBuren was shared by Joyce Joy.

"Each year, we convene in our nation's capital to conduct the business of the National Society and report on the combined impact that we make in commu-

nities around the world as a result of the year's committee-driven work. That gathering is Continental Congress, and we are eagerly preparing for the 129th edition this June. I promise you that exciting plans are underway," it stated.

The National Defender Report was about female veterans and their children; the fastest growing homeless population in America. Final Salute is a nonprofit organization that focuses on homeless women veterans and their children. The Department of Veterans Affairs' homeless shelters currently does not accommodate female veterans with children, thus leaving the families to live in their cars or seek shelter wherever. Final Salute's mission is to provide safe and sustainable housing to this specific group of veterans. Final Salute takes a three-pronged approach to

address the issues associated with the homelessness of women veterans: Awareness, assistance and aspiration.

The Indian Committee Minute was about the Powhatan Indian attack on March 22, 1622, referred to as the "Massacre of 1622," constituted a watershed in the history of the Jamestown settlement.

The Conservation Minute was on the Asian long-horned beetle.

The Constitution Minute was on "the right to remain silent," which is an extension of the Fifth Amendment and the right against self-incrimination.

The Women's Issue was on strokes. Stroke is not only the number four cause of death in the United States. It's also a leading cause of severe long-term disability.

Barbara Amiss was elected to be the chapter delegate to the 119th State Conference

in May and 129th Continental Congress in June in Washington, D.C.

The program was presented by Rosemarie Felts, a German immigrant, telling her story and explaining the difficulties faced by those who came to America in search of new opportunities.

The next meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter will be on April 14 at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave.

Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may visit www.dar.org or call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Barbara Amiss at 260-982-4376.

Man gets 50 years in Indianapolis doctor's 2017 killing

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A 19-year-old man who pleaded guilty in the fatal shooting of a prominent Indianapolis doctor was sentenced to 50 years in prison after telling a judge that he "got railroaded."

Devon Seats agreed in January to plead guilty to murder and three counts of burglary in the November 2017 slaying of Dr. Kevin Rodgers. He was

sentenced Thursday after trying unsuccessfully last month to back out of that plea deal and proceed to trial instead.

A Marion County judge sentenced Seats to 50 years on the murder charge and eight-year terms on each of the burglary charges, to be served concurrently. The Indianapolis Star reported.

Seats had admitted break-

ing into Rodgers' home and shooting him to death, according to court documents.

He told the court Thursday that he felt he was treated unfairly, and was unhappy with his counsel.

"I didn't have a fair shake because everything was against me. I got railroaded," Seats said.

Three other co-defendants

had previously pleaded guilty in connection with Rodgers' slaying.

The 61-year-old Rodgers was the program director emeritus of the emergency medicine residency at the Indiana University School of Medicine, and was also the president of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine.



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CLOSING

From page A1

schools for the diocese. "We do not take this decision lightly and understand these impacts thousands of families. As things continue to evolve, we are working hard to follow every direction of local health experts and to implement preventative measures to limit the spread of COVID-19."

For more information, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19.

Manchester Community Schools closes

In a Friday letter to family, staff and students of Manchester Community Schools (MCS), Teresa L. Gremaux, superintendent, announced they would also be canceling classes and more.

"As updates continue to emerge regarding COVID-19, we have been monitoring the situation and meeting with other local officials regularly as well as seeking guidance from state and national sources," she stated. "While there are currently no reported or suspected cases of the novel coronavirus at MCS or Wabash County, out of an abundance of caution, we are making decisions to keep our students, staff and community safe and healthy, and reduce the spread of COVID-19 to more vulnerable populations," he stated. "At this time, Manchester Community Schools is closing all schools and canceling all school-related activities from the end of the school day Friday, March 13 until Monday, April 13. More details will be shared with families in the coming days concerning eLearning procedures, as well as details on food distribution. We will continue to monitor information from local, state and national health officials. This is a very fluid situation and the MCS Administrative Team will continue to meet regularly and provide updates through email, phone messenger, text messages, social media and the school website. The health, safety and well-being of our community remain our highest priority as we make these difficult decisions."

Wabash County Museum closes

In a statement Friday, Mitch Figert, president and CEO of the Wabash County Museum, stated they had decided to close as well.

"Following a meeting today with community leaders, the Museum's leadership team has made the decision to temporarily close the museum to all visitors effective at the end of the day today. Our team will continue to monitor and reassess the situation," he stated. "With that said, the museum's staff members will continue to work onsite and remotely to assist with research requests, deep clean the entire facility, and perform site improvements. We are optimistic that this situation will improve as the community practices social distancing, proper hygiene including frequent hand washing and warmer weather arrives. This decision was made to put the health and safety of our staff, visitors, and the community as our top priority. The museum has contingency plans in place to care for the multiple artifacts in the building should staff need to be off-site for an extended period of time. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and please follow the museum's social media for future updates as this situation evolves."

MSD closes

On Thursday, Mike Keaffaber, MSD superintendent, issued a statement regarding the possibility of closures, which at that point had not been implemented.

"On Wednesday, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic. After meeting with the Wabash County Health Department (WCHD) today and other school officials, MSD of Wabash County will be conducting school and school activities as normal as possible moving forward until advised otherwise by the WCHD. The preventative actions taken by our schools to manage the flu season are the same precautions to be used for COVID-19. However, MSD is already working to enhance safety precautions. We

ask those with compromised immunities or underlying health conditions to take special precautions to ensure their personal safety. If the WCHD would advise us to close school, MSD would comply which may mean using eLearning days. Tuesdays and Thursdays of those weeks will be waiver days.

The week of April 6 will be spring break.

The week of April 13 will represent the planned return of students and staff. Any changes will be announced in advance.

"As this health emergency develops, we will rely on social media, website and school messenger to keep our community up-to-date on school closings and openings," stated Callahan. "Although our school buildings will be closed, our district office will remain open. We plan to make a decision on future closings based on updated health information before spring break. To best prepare for the closing and eLearning days, WCS staff will be in attendance on Monday, March 16. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's building on Monday or the district office afterward."

Honeywell Foundation announces closings

On Friday, Morgan Ellis, public relations and marketing coordinator for the Honeywell Foundation, issued a statement announcing various venues would have their programming affected, but were planning to reschedule.

"The Honeywell Foundation's top priority is always the health and safety of its much-valued team, volunteers, and guests. The foundation is abiding by Gov. Holcomb's mandate including precautionary social distancing to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), including the prohibition of public gatherings and events of 250 guests or more in the state of Indiana," stated Ellis. "In compliance with Gov. Holcomb's instructions and with an abundance of caution, the Honeywell Foundation is suspending all events at Foundation properties including the Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Eagles Theatre, Dr. James Ford Historic Home and Charley Creek Gardens through Thursday, April 9. The foundation is actively working with agents, managers, artists, and partners in an effort to reschedule performances when possible. Guests will receive updates via email and social media as quickly as they become available. Guests are asked to hold on to their ticket(s) as they will be honored for the rescheduled date(s). In the event of a show being canceled on behalf of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), guests will receive a 100 percent refund and will be contacted directly by the foundation with more information on how to receive a refund. If guests are unable to attend a rescheduled event, a 100 percent refund will be issued."

Wabash City Schools closes

On Friday, Jason Callahan, Wabash City School (WCS) superintendent, issued a statement saying they had also decided to close.

"After consultation with local and state health officials and governmental agencies, WCS has decided to close school from Monday, March 16 through April 10," stated Callahan. "Out of an abundance of caution for our students, staff and community, and because of safety concerns related to COVID-19, school and extra-curricular events for students in Wabash City Schools have been canceled. WCS places the highest priority on student safety. As we have stated, prevention is the best strategy for curbing the spread of this virus. Therefore, we make this decision, based not on cases of COVID-19 in Wabash County. Instead, we are making this decision to prevent cases from increasing. Local and state officials continue to urge the public to not panic. Instead, our community should promote social distancing in preventing the spread of this virus. Our decision to cancel is designed to prevent the spread of this virus and to provide health officials an opportunity to have a better understanding of how to handle this health event."

Callahan stated they are prepared to utilize eLearning, as well.

"During this time out of school, WCS will use a mixture of eLearning days and waiver days provided by the state of Indiana," he stated. "Monday, March 16 will be a waiver day, but all staff will be in the buildings. Tuesday through Thursday will also be waiver days and Friday will be

eLearning Day. For the weeks of March 23 and 30, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will be eLearning Days. Tuesdays and Thursdays of those weeks will be waiver days.

The week of April 6 will be spring break.

The week of April 13 will represent the planned return of students and staff. Any changes will be announced in advance.

"As this health emergency develops, we will rely on social media, website and school messenger to keep our community up-to-date on school closings and openings," stated Callahan. "Although our school buildings will be closed, our district office will remain open. We plan to make a decision on future closings based on updated health information before spring break. To best prepare for the closing and eLearning days, WCS staff will be in attendance on Monday, March 16. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's building on Monday or the district office afterward."

Charley Creek Gardens programming

■ Herbal Teas 101 Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, March 18 – suspended.

■ Spring Break Bash on Tuesday, April 7 – suspended.

For questions or more information, visit Honeywell Foundation.org or email ticket@honeywellfoundation.org.

For more information on COVID-19 (Coronavirus), visit The Center for Disease Control and Prevention at cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Schools & Peru High School Art Show & Banner Reception on Wednesday, March 18 – canceled.

■ "Finding Neverland" on Sunday, March 15 – suspended.

■ Big Bad Voodoo Daddy on Saturday, March 28 – suspended.

■ Hairball on Saturday, April 4 – suspended.

Honeywell House Programming

■ Cabaret!!! on Thursday, March 19 – suspended.

■ Dinner and Chamber Series Opus Two on Tuesday, March 24 – suspended.

■ Conversations on Renovation on Thursday, April 2 – suspended.

■ Eagles Theatre Ballroom Dances into the Future on Tuesday, April 7 – suspended.

Eagles programming

■ "Hoosiers" on Friday, March 13 – canceled.

■ "A Star is Born" on Friday, March 13 – canceled.

■ "Willy Wonka" on Saturday, March 14 – canceled.

■ "Green Book" on Saturday, March 14 – canceled.

■ "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" on Sunday, March 15 – canceled.

■ "La La Land" on Sunday, March 15 – canceled.

■ Top of the Charts on Friday, March 20 – suspended.

■ Free Open-House Public Tours on Saturday, March 21 – suspended.

■ Tribute to John Denver on Thursday, March 26 – suspended.

■ "Mulan" from March 27 to 29 – canceled.

■ "Onward" from March 27 to 29 – canceled.

■ Buckets N Boards on Thursday, April 2 – suspended.

■ Cafeteria services are limited to staff and individuals visiting a patient.

Parkview is committed to doing everything we can to mitigate the impact of COVID-19," stated Jeffrey Board, MD, MPH, chief quality and safety officer, Parkview Health.

"These measures are being put in place to protect everyone who comes to a Parkview facility – to work, receive care or be with their loved ones. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of our community as we address the COVID-19 pandemic declared by the World Health Organization."

To help manage the flow of patients and visitors, some non-essential hospital entrances may be closed.

Valet services have been temporarily suspended. Staff

will be stationed in parking lots to aid patients who may need assistance getting to the entrance.

Parkview Wabash issues new restrictions

In a statement Friday, Tami Bringle, public relations manager for Parkview Health, stated they had implemented precautionary measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

"In its commitment to the health and safety of patients, visitors, co-workers and the community, Parkview Health is implementing multiple precautionary measures across its facilities to mitigate the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)," stated Bringle.

Until further notice, all Parkview hospitals have implemented the following visitor restrictions:

■ Visitors are limited to one adult (at least 18 years old) per patient. This could include a designated family member or spouse/domestic partner.

■ No visitors will be allowed in the emergency department (except for a parent or guardian of a minor).

■ No visitors of any age with respiratory or flu-like symptoms (cold, cough, fever, muscle aches) will be allowed to visit patients or wait in the facility.

■ No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to visit patients.

■ Cafeteria services are limited to staff and individuals visiting a patient.

Parkview Health is offering two free, easy-to-use screening options specific to COVID-19.

People with symptoms or concerns specific to COVID-19 can either visit parkview.com/covid19 screening for detailed self-triage information or call 877-PPG-TODAY (877-774-8632) for a free phone screening.

"Both options are available 24/7 and offer prompt guidance while limiting exposure to others," stated Bringle. "Patients with minor health concerns unrelated to COVID-19 may wish to utilize telehealth resources to reduce their exposure risk. Parkview's two mobile applications, Parkview MyChart and Parkview OnDemand both offer virtual visits with a provider. Patients with standing appointments, ongoing care plans or other health concerns should contact their providers prior to canceling or rescheduling appointments."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Boston Marathon postponed until Sept. 14 amid virus concerns

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Marathon, the world's most celebrated footrace, was postponed until Sept. 14 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh announced the decision Friday. The Boston Athletic Association, which oversees the marathon, had held off deciding the fate of the April 20 race even as other high-profile sports events were canceled or postponed around the globe.

But pressure had mounted in recent weeks from officials in Boston and the seven cities and towns along the 26.2-mile course. Some had expressed worries not only for the health of the 31,000 registered runners but also the estimated 1 million spectators who traditionally line the route, giving athletes hand slaps and even kisses as they pass.

Walsh, making the announcement with race organizers and other officials outside City Hall, drew on the city's rallying cry in the aftermath of the bombings that killed three and injured scores of others at the marathon finish line in 2013.

Iona coach Cluess resigns after 6 NCAA berths

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (AP) — Tim Cluess, who led Iona to six NCAA Tournament appearances, resigned Friday to focus on making a full recovery from a recent health concern.

Cluess led the Gaels to a 199-106 record in his nine seasons. He won five Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament championships, including the last four, and four regular-season titles.

The Gaels won either the regular season or tournament titles in each of Cluess' last eight seasons.

Cluess is second among coaches in MAAC tournament wins and second in regular-season victories. He was conference coach of the year in 2019, when Iona became the first school in a decade to win both the regular-season and tournament titles.

But he sat out this season because of an undisclosed health issue and will continue to recover from that now while serving in an advisory role.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants.

Reports must be received by 3 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

■ Emailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

■ Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

■ Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals emailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

Quick Hits



Southwood's Jackson Simons celebrates after a basket during the Knights' game against Wabash in the Wabash County Tournament earlier this season.

IHSAA suspends state basketball tourney indefinitely

By JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

On Friday afternoon, the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) announced the postponement of the boys' basketball state tournament in a statement. The move came as a result of the growing concerns of the coronavirus.

"Due to the number of schools closing after today for an extended period of time, it has become apparent the IHSAA boys bas-

ketball tournament series cannot be completed as scheduled. Subsequently, the boys' basketball tournament is postponed immediately," the press release stated.

Southwood's boys' basketball team was slated to travel to Frankfort on Saturday morning to meet Covington in the Class A regional.

The decision came after a flurry of moves on Friday morning as shuffles in regional host sites began to occur. Both Southport and

Greencastle, hosts of Class 4A and 3A regionals, respectively, were unable to host regionals after each instituted "No visitor" policies.

Those moves paired with multiple schools across the state extending spring break periods forced the hands of the IHSAA into making Friday's decision.

On Thursday, the IHSAA had announced a set of plans in hopes of continuing the tournament under strict guidelines. Fans would not be permitted into

the regional events as each school would be allotted 75 tickets to be given to essential school staff and immediate family of the players.

Prior to the postponement of the state tournament on Saturday, the IHSAA also announced that, presently, spring sports would continue on as scheduled. A decision on whether schools

needed to meet a minimum number of sporting events to be eligible for the post-season would come at a late date after meetings by the IHSAA.

March Madness leads long list of canceled sports

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

The world's sports schedule cratered at warp speed Thursday, with one of the biggest events on the U.S. calendar, the fun-filled and colorful college basketball tournament known as March Madness, becoming the first mega-event to be scrubbed due to fear of the spread of the coronavirus.

Leaders at all levels of sports, including the NCAA, NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball, tennis and soccer, decided the risk of playing games with the threat of the virus hanging over them was too great despite the billions of dollars — to say nothing of the trophies, pride and once-in-a-lifetime experiences — hanging in the balance.

By late in the afternoon of an extraordinary, headline-a-minute day across a pandemic-rattled globe, the NCAA, which regulates March Madness and virtually all major U.S. college sports, basically had no choice. With conferences and individual teams calling off their basketball seasons at breakneck pace, the NCAA followed suit. They scrapped all college winter and spring championships, the highlight of which is

the men's basketball tournament — a three-week extravaganza that stands as the biggest event this side of the Super Bowl on the U.S. sports calendar.

The cancellation leaves a massive hole in American sports — from campuses across the country, to a growing passel of sports-betting businesses that rely on college hoops money, to say nothing of the hearts of players who were poised to get their first, or last, or only chance to shine on the big stage.

All of it was to be covered by CBS and its partners; about 80 percent of the NCAA's \$1.05 billion annual budget is bankrolled by the money the networks pay to present the 68-team tournament over the air, on cable and online.

"This is bigger than a sport or championship," said Kansas University coach Bill Self, whose team would've been the likely favorite to win it all.

Hours earlier, Kansas and Duke had each taken matters into their own hands, announcing they wouldn't be sending any of their teams to games, no matter the stakes.

It wasn't even the most jaw-dropping moment of

the morning. That came, fittingly, at one of the world's most renowned sports venues — Madison Square Garden — where at halftime of a Big East Conference tournament game, the PA announcer came on and said the tournament had been called.

By then, every major conference, and virtually all of the minor ones, had done the same thing. They were prompted in part by the NCAA's decision a day earlier to hold all its tournament games — which had been scheduled to start next week in nine cities and close April 6 at a 71,000-seat stadium in Atlanta — in front of friends and family and limited "essential" personnel.

Only 24 hours later, with the stock market tanking, mixed messages coming out of Washington and no promise of quick relief being offered by world health experts, it became even more clear that gatherings involving thousands of people were hard to justify. Also clear: The NCAA would have trouble assembling an equitable bracket for its tournament, given that most games designed to suss out the most-deserving teams and automatic qualifiers had already been scrubbed.

"I'm not a researcher in immunology or infectious disease, but those who are engaged at the NCAA level provided some stark information yesterday," said Greg Sankey, the commissioner of the Southeastern Conference.

The March Madness news meant it will be a world free of basketball for the foreseeable future.

A day after the NBA put its season on temporary hiatus, a second member of the Utah Jazz — Donovan Mitchell — tested positive for the coronavirus. The league said its suspension would last for at least 30 days — possibly a conservative guess, as teams undertake the task of identifying any player or referee who has had recent contact with the Jazz, then putting them into isolation for the required two weeks.

"What would kill the NBA season is if more players catch it," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said in an interview on CNBC. He called the hiatus a matter of "us being vigilant, as all businesses should be. Businesses are going to have to be incredibly vigilant, and that's hard."

The NHL also suspended

NASCAR and IndyCar both postpone racing over virus concerns

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

NASCAR and IndyCar both reversed course Friday and pulled the plug on racing this weekend, with IndyCar also suspending its season through the end of April due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

NASCAR called off Sunday's race at Atlanta Motor Speedway and next weekend's events at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Both events were already scheduled to be run without spectators.

Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson supported the move.

"We want to race as much as you want us to race but this is the right decision," Johnson wrote on Twitter. "This is so much bigger than sports right now and the health and safety of our fans, industry members and the overall public is top priority."

IndyCar was scheduled to open its season Sunday on the streets of downtown St. Petersburg without fans. Formula One also canceled its season opening race in Australia, leaving the first full weekend of global motorsports without a major event.

"After careful consideration, including regular communication with our event promoters, health officials, and the city administrations in our respective race markets regarding COVID-19, we have made the decision to cancel all events through April," IndyCar said. "(The) safety of our fans, participants, staff, partners, and media will always remain our top priority."

IndyCar driver Alexander Rossi issued a statement in which he called the decision "a bummer."

"I share in the disappointment with all the fans and pro athletes across the globe," Rossi said. "But let's work through this together, be good (intelligent) humans, and come back to have some fun in a couple months."

Defending IndyCar series champion Josef Newgarden received word of the cancellation standing in the lobby of his hotel just a few feet from the entrance to the street course.

"Crazy times we are living in, man. Crazy times," Newgarden said.

NASCAR said the decision to postpone the next two weeks "is in the best interest of the safety and well-being of our fans, competitors, officials and everyone associated with our sport."

As college and professional sports leagues canceled events or postponed their seasons by one, NASCAR, IndyCar and F1 were among the very few organizations planning to press ahead this weekend. Finally, even the prospect of staging races without fans was deemed to be unsafe.

There was no announcement of any plans to reschedule the races.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus within a few weeks.

See SCRUBBED, page B2

Olympic torch relay in Greece suspended because of virus

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The Greek Olympic committee suspended the rest of its torch relay on Friday because of the “unexpectedly large crowd” that gathered to watch despite repeated requests for the public to stay away to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The committee said a large crowd had gathered to watch the flame for the Tokyo Olympics pass through

the southern Greek town of Sparta. The flame for the Tokyo Olympics was lit Thursday at the birthplace of the games in Ancient Olympia in a pared-down ceremony.

“(We took) the difficult but essential decision to cancel the rest of the program of the flame relay on Greek territory,” the committee said.

The decision was taken

in coordination with the health ministry and the International Olympic Committee, it said.

The handover of the Olympic Flame to the Tokyo organizing committee will go ahead as scheduled on March 19 at the stadium in Athens where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896.

No spectators will be allowed to attend that cere-

mony, Tokyo officials said in a statement, but they are continuing their plans for a torch relay in Japan.

“In line with the counter-measure policy set by the national government, we will work closely with all municipalities and related organisations in Japan to ensure the Olympic torch relay safely begins on March 26,” organizers said.

The road to the Masters leads nowhere

Golf shuts down due to virus issue

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — For the last 75 years, the golf landscape never changed. March brought anticipation of azaleas and Amen Corner, of the drive down Magnolia Lane and the chase for a green jacket.

The annual road to the Masters took a major detour Friday — but not a dead end, like other tournaments — when Augusta National said the Masters would be postponed because of increasing risks with the new coronavirus.

It was expected, but no less jarring, even as the Masters joined other big sporting events that were suspended (NBA), delayed (Major League Baseball) or canceled (NCAA basketball tournament).

Xander Schauffele was quick to find hope.

“Well, postponed is a comforting word,” Schauffele said. “Canceled is another.”

Augusta National offered no details except for Chairman Fred Ridley saying he hopes the postponement puts the club in the best position to safely host the Masters “at some later date.”

The announcement capped off 24 hours that began with hope golf could be played without fans and ended with

the reality that it had to follow along with other sports and step away.

Even the Masters.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said his “gut-wrenching” decision to cancel the rest of The Players Championship this week and the next three tournaments on the schedule was based largely on Orlando’s theme parks shutting down and travel for the international players.

“Even though we have a safe environment and we’ve done all the right things, we can’t proceed,” Monahan said. “It’s not right to proceed.”

That got little argument from the players, who suspected this was coming.

Rory McIlroy, the world’s No. 1 player, preached the importance of everyone getting tested for the virus and saying golf would have no choice but to shut down if anyone — a player, caddie, support staff — tested positive.

That was on Thursday night, after he closed with three straight birdies. He went to bed before the tour’s decision to shut down golf and woke up Friday to several text messages that left him wondering when he would tee it up again.

“You’re obviously going to still keep playing golf, but you’re going out there practicing and not knowing what you’re practicing for,” McIlroy said as he headed

ed into the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse to clean out his locker.

The PGA Tour has canceled four tournaments, one in the Dominican Republic. The LPGA Tour, which already lost three tournaments on its Asia Swing, said it was postponing its next three events in Arizona and California, the last one the first major championship of the year.

The next tournament on the European Tour schedule is in the south of Spain at the end of April.

It’s not unusual for players to have a month off with nowhere to play, just not in the heart of the season.

“This is obviously new territory,” said J.T. Poston, who was anticipating his first time playing the Masters. “I can’t remember the last time I didn’t really know when I was going to play my next golf tournament or when I didn’t have a golf tournament that I could look forward to playing.”

McIlroy’s coach was planning to fly from Ireland next week so they could prepare for the Masters, the major keeping him from the career Grand Slam. That’s been scrapped. All that’s on McIlroy’s immediate agenda is getting tested for the virus.

Bernd Wiesberger of Austria was trying to get the last flight to Vienna. He left before the Masters was postponed, which was just as

well. Wiesberger figured he would not have been able to return to the U.S. to play.

Scraping the Players Championship also was a blow to the tour because it’s the biggest event — “our Super Bowl,” Monahan said — of the 44 tournaments it operates. Because only one round was played, the \$15 million purse was to be cut in half and distributed evenly among the 144 players — \$52,083 each, unofficial money.

That doesn’t include C.T. Pan, who withdrew a few hours before his tee time to reduce the risk of catching the virus.

U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland was among those who felt it would have looked bad if the tour had kept playing, even though Monahan suggested it could be a “source of inspiration” to have a live sport on television if done in a safe manner.

“It would have looked horrible if we showed up and played today with every other sports league not playing,” Woodland said. “It probably would have been insensitive, so I’m glad Jay made the decision that he did. It’s best for us. It’s best for the fans and our families. ... It’s only going to get worse right now, so it’s best for us not to be playing golf.”

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, with the vast majority recovering in about two weeks.

NCAA tried to save March Madness with 16 teams

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Sports Writer

As it became apparent the NCAA basketball tournaments could not be held over three weeks because of concerns about the coronavirus, organizers scrambled to devise a plan for a 16-team event to salvage the postseason in one long weekend.

NCAA vice president of men’s basketball Dan Gavitt told AP he started to consider ways of condensing the tournament Wednesday night after the NBA announced one of its players tested positive for the virus and the league suspended its season.

The NCAA canceled its basketball tournaments and all other remaining championship events on Thursday in response to the coronavirus pandemic. That came a day after the association had announced it planned to play the games while restricting fan access.

“We did spend a significant amount of time very late Wednesday night trying to figure out alternative models,” Gavitt said Friday. The next morning, Gavitt presented the idea to the men’s basketball selection committee. He said the hope was to play games starting Thursday at State Farm Arena in Atlanta. The city had been scheduled to host the Final Four at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on April 4 and 6.

The idea was to have the selection committee choose the top 16 teams in the country, regardless of conference, to participate. The first three rounds would have been played Thursday-Saturday, with a championship game Monday night. Gavitt said he believes eight or nine of the 32 Division I conferences could have been represented.

ed.

“Far from ideal. Far from perfect,” Gavitt said. “Imperfect as it may be, that was one of the only reasonable options we thought we could at least maintain some level of our tournaments.”

Gavitt said there was some hope early Thursday that a full tournament could still be played. As that faded, the idea of holding a smaller event got “mixed interest” from committee.

“There was a real concern about not being inclusive enough, with only 16 teams,” Gavitt said. “But the other thing that was in play at that point in committee members’ minds, and we saw this play out at conference tournaments, once an NBA player was infected, I think it started to really hit home for the players, from what I’ve heard from coaches by text message and anecdotally.”

The reality set in quickly that even a shortened tournament could not be pulled off without putting people at risk and the NCAA’s biggest event of the year was canceled Thursday afternoon.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said the idea of postponing the tournament indefinitely, with the hope of playing it later, also wasn’t feasible.

“The immediate logistical problems were that we had this rapidly, continuing right now, number of schools that were shutting down,” Emmert said. “We had the reality that if you start a tournament six weeks from now a bunch of our students our seniors and will have moved on. And when you looked at the projections of where the virus was going to be in six weeks it looks worse, not better.”

MLB encouraging players to go home after canceling spring

By JAKE SEINER

Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Major League Baseball is encouraging players to go home, a day after canceling the rest of the spring training schedule and postponing opening day by at least two weeks amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Ballparks in Florida and Arizona were locked down Friday as the sport considered how to proceed following an outbreak that has brought the U.S. sports schedule to a standstill.

Teams speculated the season might not start until sometime in May, necessitating a reduced schedule.

Many teams said in the morning they planned to close for the weekend and re-open camps Monday. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred met Friday with the players’ association leadership, and a decision was made to encourage players to leave camp in the afternoon.

“We don’t have a playbook for this,” Cleveland Indians president Chris Antonetti said in the morning. “We are learning on the fly. We are taking the approach that we will continue to prioritize the health and wellness of our players, our staff, their families, everyone at the complex, everyone throughout the organization. That is evolving day to day.”

The dispersal is not mandatory. In particular, many minor league players — especially from other countries — have been hoping to remain in camps, where they have usually access to housing, food and training facilities.

MLB has recommended scouts should not make non-essential travel, ac-

cording to a person familiar with the discussions. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the league has not announced those plans.

“There’s obviously there’s no games to be played right now, so our amateur scouts are in a holding pattern at this point,” Kansas City general manager Dayton Moore said.

The NBA suspended its season Wednesday night after Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert was diagnosed with the virus, and it wasn’t a surprise to players when MLB followed with a similar move Thursday.

Not that players weren’t stunned by the disruption — Jon Lester was long-tossing in Cubs camp in the moments before the announcement was made, and Mariners’ coaches pulled pitchers off bullpen mounds mid-session to break the news.

“Yesterday was one of the craziest days I’ve ever had in baseball,” Seattle manager Scott Servais said. “I went through the (1994-95) strike as player, and I can only compare it to that.”

A day after finishing a week-long drive from Chicago, diehard fan Elaine Maddox stood outside the Cubs spring training complex Friday morning, gazing through locked gates at an empty, sun-soaked field.

“It’s kind of sad,” she said. “Spent all that money and everything, coming all the way out here. But I guess it’s better than being sick.”

She said she supported MLB’s decision to suspend play — disappointed though she was to have driven across the country with her husband, Loren, only to be locked out of Sloan Park in Mesa.

NHL players in isolation while season is on hold

By STEPHEN WHYNO and JOHN WAWROW

AP Hockey Writers

The NHL is telling its players and staff to stay away from the rink and self-isolate while hockey is on a hiatus of unknown length during the coronavirus pandemic.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said Friday he was not aware of any player or league employee testing positive for the new coronavirus, but he can’t say for certain that no one is feeling ill or awaiting test results. The league announced Thursday it was putting its season on “pause,” but Bettman remains optimistic of resuming play and eventually awarding the Stanley Cup.

“That would be the goal,” Bettman said in a phone interview with The Associated Press and the NHL’s website. “Health, safety, well-being

of the NHL family, especially and including our fans, is most important. If the business considerations and the money were the only thing, then we and a bunch of others would keep playing.”

Bettman told owners the first positive test result by any player would mean “all bets are off” and that the decision to suspend the season came after that happened in the NBA. There are some 700 players among the 31 NHL teams across North America.

“It was clear to me that no matter what scenario we came up with that we continued to play with, either with or without fans, it was inconceivable, certainly unlikely, that we were going to get through the rest of the regular season at minimum without somebody testing positive,” Bettman said.

Unlike NBA Commission-

er Adam Silver, who said his league’s season would be suspended at least 30 days,

Bettman would not put a timeframe on the NHL hiatus. Bettman said several contingencies are being worked but would not give a definitive date on when that would have to happen or how long into the summer things could go. The Stanley Cup is typically awarded in early June after two months of playoff games.

“I think the scope of what this is still unknown to all of us,” prominent players’ agent Stephen Bartlett told The AP. “I think the only thing that we can counsel people is to take a deep breath and take whatever steps necessary and prudent to keep yourself healthy. And rest assured, especially for our athlete population, that those guys are in

the very best of shape.”

League and Players’ Association officials were meeting Friday to spell out a plan for what can be done while the season is on hold. Bettman isn’t sure how long players will be advised to stay home.

“We’ll be looking to progress in terms of activities once we get a handle on whether or not anybody in the short term is going to test positive,” Bettman said.

Players seem to be on board with the NHL’s response.

San Jose Sharks forward Evander Kane tweeted the NHL “has done the right thing in taking this pause to help the risk of spreading this virus.”

Boston-based agent Mark Witkin is telling his players to use common sense when training and stay upbeat despite the lack of games and practices.

The LPGA postponed three tournaments, beginning next week, including its first major of the season.

Tennis will also be canceling events. The ATP called off men’s tournaments for the next six weeks; the WTA said its tournament in South Carolina, set for April 6-12, would not be held as scheduled, with decisions about the rest of the season to come in the next week.

NASCAR announced it would race the next two weekends, in Atlanta and Miami, without fans, and IndyCar made the same decision for its race this weekend in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Horse races were going on in several states, though without fans in the stands — leaving the parimutuel wagers to be made online;

organizers of the Kentucky Derby were moving forward with plans for the May 2

race.

The NFL, never off the radar even in the depths of the offseason, announced a number of changes and cancellations on its schedule of meetings, fan fest and scouting trips — all related to coronavirus.

The U.S.-based Major League Soccer said it would shut down for a target period of 30 days.

Earlier in the day, soccer leagues and teams scrambled to make changes:

—Belgium’s soccer league

backpedaled on an earlier decision, and decided to close stadiums to fans.

—A Champions League game involving Real Madrid was postponed after the Spanish team puts its players in quarantine.

—Dutch soccer authorities canceled all matches through the end of the month, including friendlies against the

United States and Spain.

—Also, a second player from Italy’s top soccer division tested positive. All sports in that hard-hit country have been suspended through April 3.

For once, there were no major announcements coming out of Tokyo, where conflicting messages about the status of this summer’s Olympics have come out of the country, and the IOC, for weeks.

Instead, the IOC went ahead with its ceremonial lighting of the Olympic flame, an event held in front of the ruined Temple of Hera in Ancient Olympia.

“We are strengthened ... by the many authorities and sports organizations around the world which are taking so many significant measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus,” IOC president Thomas Bach said.

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ON THE AIR

AUTO RACING	
10 a.m.	
FS1	NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series: Qualifying, Atlanta
11 a.m.	FS1 — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Qualifying, Atlanta
12 p.m.	FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Atlanta
1:30 p.m.	FS1 — NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series: The Georgia 200, Atlanta
4 p.m.	FS1 — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Atlanta 250, Atlanta
7 p.m.	NBCSN — Monster Energy AMA Supercross: Round 11, Indianapolis
8 p.m.	FS2 — NHRA: Qualifying, Gainesville, Fla.
9 p.m.	FS2 — NHRA: Qualifying, Gainesville, Fla.
10 p.m.	NBCSN — IndyCar: Qualifying, St. Petersburg, Fla. (taped)
1 a.m. (Sunday)	FS2 — NHRA: Qualifying, Gainesville, Fla.
CYCLING	2 a.m.
NBCSN — UCI: The Paris-Nice, Stage 6, 97 miles, Sorgues — Apt, France (taped)	NBCSN — FIG World Cup: Apparatus Finals, Baku, Azerbaijan (taped)
2 a.m. (Sunday)	NBCSN — UCI: The Paris-Nice, Stage 7, 102 miles, Nice — Valdebrole La Colmiane, France (taped)
RUGBY	12 p.m.
NBCSN — Six Nations: Wales vs. Scotland, Round 5, Cardiff, Wales (taped)	FOX — NASCAR Cup Series: The Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500, Atlanta
SUNDAY, MARCH 15	3:30 p.m.
NBCSN — IndyCar: Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Fla.	FS1 — NHRA: The AMALIE Motor Oil NHRA Gatornationals, Gainesville, Fla. (taped)
BOWLING	9:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.	FS1 — PBA: The WSOB XI Cheetah Championship, Las Vegas
CYCLING	2 a.m.
NBCSN — UCI: The Paris-Nice, Stage 7, 102 miles, Nice — Valdebrole La Colmiane, France (taped)	NBCSN — UCI: The Paris-Nice, Final Stage, 70 miles, Nice, France (taped)
GYMNASTICS	11 p.m.
NBCSN — FIG World Cup: Apparatus Finals, Baku, Azerbaijan (taped)	NBCSN — FIS Alpine World Cup: Men's Slalom, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (taped)
RODEO	6 p.m.
CBSSN — PBR: The Gwinnett Invitational, Duluth, Ga. (taped)	SKIING
1 a.m. (Monday)	NBCSN — FIS Alpine World Cup: Men's Slalom, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (taped)

Some Japanese fret more over economy and virus than Olympic Games

By MARI YAMGUCHI and HARUKA NUGA

Associated Press

TOKYO — Amid the spreading coronavirus and uncertainty over the fate of the Tokyo Olympics, many Japanese may be more concerned about the virus, what happens to their schools, and the state of the economy. Canceling the Olympics might be a secondary worry.

The fate of the Olympics is a daily topic as Japan's government struggles to bring the coronavirus outbreak under control. U.S. President Donald Trump made a suggestion to postpone the Tokyo Olympics for a year because of the spreading coronavirus.

But Trump's suggestion was immediately shot down on Friday by Japan's Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto, a former Olympic medal winner.

Japanese organizers, government officials, and the International Olympic Committee have denied they will cancel or postpone. They say the Olympics will open on July 24 at the new \$1.43 billion national stadium.

Not everyone that The Associated Press interviewed on Friday in central Tokyo seemed convinced.

"If you think about the safety of athletes, I don't think we should have the Olympics," said Yoshio Yoshimoto, a 70-year-old contract worker. "Who would take responsibility if you force it and the coronavirus outbreak turns worse?"

Yoshimoto, wearing a surgical mask, said national leaders should focus on people's health, rather than thinking about ways to hold the Olympics. "Even if the economy gets better, is the price worth it if people get sick," Yoshimoto said.

A retail store employee, Toshio Kimura passed by a busy train station with his wife and their daughter. He said Japan had already been criticized for its handling of a cruise ship. He said holding the Olympics without completely keeping the coronavirus under control could be a disaster.

As of Friday, Japan has 675 confirmed cases, plus 697 others from the cruise ship Diamond Princess, where Japanese quarantine was criticized as being insufficient.

Most people quickly recover from the virus after experiencing only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with some existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

"If you think about the safety of athletes, I don't think we should have the Olympics."

YOSHIO YOSHIMOTO
Japan contract worker

According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks.

"I'm sorry to say this but I don't think we should have Olympics," Kimura said. "Japan has already given a bad impression to the rest of the world. Given the on-going coronavirus situation in Japan, I don't think we should have the Olympics. It will only make things worse if we hold the games before fully terminating the outbreak."

He also said Japanese officials should think about what happens after the Olympics, rather than just focusing on ways to hold the games.

College student Mimi Okuta said she supports a postponement, saying there are many other more important issues that are affecting people's daily lives.

"Schools are closed, many working mothers are forced to take time off, and stock prices are falling ... and job fairs and interviews for students are being canceled because of the coronavirus," she said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, under pressure to tackle the coronavirus after criticisms that he was too slow at the beginning, has stepped up measures in recent weeks and requested nationwide school closures, cancellation or postponement of cultural and athletic events, and teleworking.

Abe also introduced an economic package to support small businesses and workers affected by the outbreak.

Japan is heavily invested in the Olympics. Organizers are officially spending \$12.6 billion to hold the games, although a government audit report says the cost is twice that much. In addition, international broadcasters and sponsors have paid billions to the IOC for broadcasting rights and exclusive ad deals.

And some people might enjoy the Olympics, but local sports matter more.

Ayaki Ogushi, a 32-year-old office worker, laments a series of cancellations of other sports events in Japan — baseball, soccer and even sumo.

"I have a problem seeing many sports events being canceled or postponed, particularly the Japanese professional baseball," he said. "But I don't care what happens to the Olympics."

Even MLB legend Yogi Berra might wonder when it will really be over

The games are over, at least for now. There's only so much you can say about that when people are dying and the world is in danger. The playground has always been the place to leave your troubles behind but when no place is really safe, sports can't be either.

That includes America's pastime, as painful as that might be.

Baseball may or may not be played again this year. There are no guarantees anymore, and anyone who thinks the major leagues will soon pick back up where they suddenly left off Thursday is either guessing or has a crystal ball that the rest of us have yet to properly study.

That could mean no opening day anytime in 2020, as shocking as that might be. No pennant races, and no World Series to help us get the stink of the Houston Astros off our minds.

Nothing except a long, hot summer without the game that means so much to so many.

The great baseball philosopher Yogi Berra famously declared that it ain't over 'till it's over. Well, it's over, at least for now, after the plug was finally pulled Thursday as games were still being played in Florida.

"It felt like the most meaningless baseball game in the history of the sport," infielder Matt Carpenter said as his Cardinals played the Marlins in Jupiter, Florida.

Baseball players are lucky in a way. Unlike college seniors who might miss the only March Madness of their life, they still get paid and still have a chance to play when this all gets better.

Not like the guy pouring you a beer or the woman handing you a hot dog. Their jobs are gone, at least for the near future, and the chances of finding something else in a suddenly perilous economy are about as good as they are being picked to sing the national

anthem if opening day ever arrives.

Same for the people who guide you to a parking spot, and those who take your tickets. The security guards, equipment guys, broadcast helpers and many, many others are all in the same boat.

While the rest of us might need help finding something to do other than watching sports, they need help just to live their lives.

Kevin Love stood up quickly on the basketball side to pledge \$100,000 for team and arena staff hurt by the loss of NBA games in Cleveland. Expect other NBA stars to do the same kind of thing, and Dallas owner Mark Cuban says he's got a plan to pay his workers even if there are no games.

Baseball needs to step up for its people, too, if only because those in the sport understand it's the right thing to do.

"My heart really goes out to the people who are living paycheck to paycheck and for whom this is an economic catastrophe," Seattle owner John Stanton said in Arizona.

Here's hope that Stanton backs his words with his wallet, because a lot of good people will soon be suffering. The official delay is for two weeks, but Stanton said he doesn't have high confidence that the season will begin on April 9 as now planned.

The original plan to start March 26 was made so a World Series Game 6 would not be on election night. Now there's a chance it could come on inaugural day.

No one really knows because as good as baseball is with analytics, even the best numbers people can't say for sure where the virus is or where it will spread. That's not baseball's fault because no one outside the

sport seems to know either, mostly because relatively few tests have been done in the United States.

"Testing is a much broader issue than just how it relates to a major league team or a sports team," Cubs president of baseball operations Theo Epstein said. "We're far behind in this country as a whole in testing and so our stance is that the more testing the better. And we hope our country gets to the point where we can have a lot of testing to better assess the situation and make better decisions going forward."

Until then it's anyone's guess, and the guessing game has just gotten going. So far, no major league players have tested positive for coronavirus, though that doesn't mean it already lurks in clubhouses and on fields.

Indeed, it's already been found everywhere from a movie set with Tom Hanks in Australia to a basketball player in the middle of America.

"Man, it's invisible, too," Seattle pitcher Kendall Graveman said. "So we're really trying to take precautions. But yeah, it's crazy."

The biggest precaution is being taken by baseball itself, though there was no real choice. Commissioner Rob Manfred waited until the dominoes started falling in other sports to call things off, then announced a two-week delay that will almost certainly last beyond that.

These are uncharted waters in stormy times. The bottom line is nobody will really know it's over until it's really over.

Even Yogi might agree with that, though his thoughts are a little more difficult to channel right now.

The Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center in New Jersey said Thursday it was closing because of the virus.

Tim Dahlberg is a sports columnist for The Associated Press.

Coronavirus worries prompt some post-race changes for the Iditarod dog race in Alaska

By MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press

Meanwhile, the leader is taking a day's rest at the halfway point of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Brent Sass, a native of Minnesota living near the Alaska community of Eureka, was the first musher to the checkpoint in Cripple, the race's halfway point. He arrived late Wednesday with 13 dogs in harness and planned to take his mandatory 24-hour rest period.

He said he was pleased with his team's performance, telling the Iditarod Insider, "Everybody is just smooth trotting, and they're doing their job."

Sass is the two-time defending champion of the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, run between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. He won this year's Yukon Quest on Feb. 11.

He said most of the dogs on his team are 3- and 4-years-old and were part of the two Yukon Quest championship runs.

Sass said the Iditarod is a new trail for all but one of his dogs and they're "super excited."

"They definitely have the mental ability to do it so it's just about getting down the trail and me making a lot of good decisions," he said.

For being first to Cripple, Sass won his choice of \$3,000 in gold nuggets or a cellphone with a service plan for a year.

Other mushers who have arrived in Cripple include Michelle Phillips of Tagish, Yukon; four-time cham-

pion Lance Mackey of Fairbanks; Paige Drobny of Cantwell; three-time champ Mitch Seavey of Seward; Kelly Maixner of Big Lake, and Aliy Zirkle of Two Rivers.

The remainder of the top 10 includes Jessie Royer of Fairbanks, Richie Diehl of Aniak, and Thomas Waerner of Norway. All three are en route to the Cripple checkpoint and have already taken their mandatory 24-hour layover.

The race started Sunday in Willow for 57 mushers, down to 55 after two scratches.

A musher running at the back of the pack withdrew from the race Thursday, citing current events and saying he wanted to be home with friends and family "during this stressful time," according to a release from the Iditarod. Jeremy Keller of Knik withdrew at the checkpoint in Nikolai.

The release said he was mushing back to the starting line in Willow, 263 miles and a four-day journey away. It's unclear why Keller was not flown off the trail instead. An Iditarod spokeswoman could not elaborate on Keller's reasons for withdrawal.

The Nome City Council also decided to close a number of city buildings from March 14-31, including the cultural center, the rec center and pool. That means Nome events that usually coincide with the Iditarod, such as a large basketball tournament that draws teams from hundreds of miles around Nome and an arts and crafts festival, will not be held.

U.S. Soccer president Carlos Cordeiro quits after gender discrimination suit

By ANNE PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

A night earlier, U.S. women wore their warmup jerseys inside-out to hide the federation crest before a game against Japan. Several of the federation's sponsors issued statements this week backing the players and condemning the USSF, including The Coca-Cola Co., Anheuser Busch Cos. Inc., The Procter & Gamble Co. and Volkswagen Group.

Cordeiro said he decided to quit after discussions with the USSF board.

"It has become clear to me that what is best right now is a new direction," Cordeiro wrote. "The arguments and language contained in this week's legal filing caused great offense and pain, especially to our extraordinary women's national team players who deserve better. It was unacceptable and inexcusable."

"I did not have the opportunity to fully review the filing in its entirety before it was submitted, and I take responsibility for not doing so. Had I done so, I would have objected to the language," he wrote.

The legal papers were submitted to federal court in Los Angeles as part of the USSF's defense of the gender discrimination lawsuit filed by women's national team players last year. They claim they have not been paid equally to the men's national team and asked for more than \$66 million in damages under the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A trial is scheduled for May 5.

"While it is gratifying that there has been such a deafening outcry against USSF's blatant misogyny, the sexist culture and policies overseen by Carlos Cordeiro have been approved for years by the board of directors of USSF," said Molly Levinson, the players' spokeswoman.

Cordeiro had issued an apology for the arguments late Wednesday night while the women's team was still on the field against Japan. He added the federation had retained new legal counsel, a move the men's national team on Thursday called "window dressing" and "a sleight of hand."

Objection to dress code threatens to sink cruise

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 30 years. I recently retired, and we are planning a cruise to Europe and a two-month stay, returning on the same cruise line. The cruise line is rather posh, and travelers are asked to "dress appropriately" — Which Means, Essential ly, Men Should Wear A Jack et To Dinner (No Tie Required).

Dear Abby



My husband is balking at the idea he should have to wear a jacket on his vacation and now says he won't go. Abby, we have already invested several hundreds of dollars in deposits, so what do I do? I'd rather not spend 14 days at sea with a husband whining over wearing a jacket for 30 minutes a day and end up dining alone (we reserved a table for two so we wouldn't be stuck making small talk). We are cruising because he will not fly. — Texas Wife

DEAR TEXAS WIFE: You have already accommodated your husband by booking a cruise instead of flying. Could his problem be that his jackets no longer fit him? If that's the case, buy him one that does. However, if his objection is that he really doesn't want to GO, why not take your husband up on his offer to stay home and ask one of your girlfriends to accompany you? Then all three of you might have a better time.

DEAR ABBY: I am 61 and dating a 63-year-old man, "Charles." I live in my own apartment, pay my own bills, and I like and enjoy life. Charles is constantly over at my apartment and ends up falling asleep for hours at a time. It irritates me when he sleeps six, seven and even eight hours at my place. I feel he has a place of his own, and he should be doing that there.

He has told me numerous times that he doesn't feel safe at his apartment because of the neighborhood. He says that is why he is spending time with me. I like my alone time, which I don't have often. Prior to him, I wasn't in a relationship for seven years.

I feel that Charles is needy. Am I being unreasonable? I don't think I am, and it always ends up in an argument. If you could please give me some advice, I would appreciate your input. — Not Hotel Accommodations

DEAR NOT HOTEL: Wake up and smell the coffee. Charles told you he spends all that time with you because he doesn't feel safe in his apartment, NOT because he loves your company so much he cannot stay away. What did he do before he met you?

From where I sit, it appears he's angling to move in. It isn't unreasonable to want your own space, particularly if you are the one paying for it, while he snores away the hours. If the status quo isn't what you want, it is up to you to change it.

DEAR ABBY: In class, I sit next to a girl who is constantly telling me that she likes the way I smell. I don't know if she's flirting with me or actually likes my cologne. She is making me very self-conscious. Should I confront her or tell my teacher? Or should I drop out and move to Alaska? I'm scared. — Ready To Move In The South

DEAR READY TO MOVE: Your classmate is trying to pay you a compliment. Tell her the name of your cologne and where she can buy some, if you are wearing any. As to moving out of state, that smells very unnecessary to me.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Put out of sight
- 4 Does road work
- 8 Fleece
- 12 — we there yet?"
- 13 Costa —
- 14 Himalayan monk
- 15 Step on the gas Tabriz is
- 17 Smell
- 18 Curt
- 20 Dominion
- 22 Word of welcome
- 23 Md. neighbor
- 24 Proverbs
- 28 Chemist's hangout
- 31 Lake bird
- 34 Series of battles
- 35 Cartoon chipmunk
- 36 Time long gone
- 37 Hosp. employee
- 38 West Coast campus

DOWN

- 39 MPG watchdog
- 40 Concur
- 42 Koppel or Knight
- 44 Take place
- 48 Maria Conchita —
- 51 Cling
- 52 Civil wrong
- 53 Orange peel
- 55 German article
- 56 Stage award
- 57 Rib
- 58 Yale grad
- 59 Destitute
- 60 Took legal action
- 61 9-digit no.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

V	I	E	W	A	M	T	C	A	B	O
I	C	R	E	S	R	I	A	G	O	O
E	A	C	R	E	C	A	R	O	L	E
R	A	N	K	H	D	A	B	S	P	U
A	Y	N	E	A	S	T	A	M	G	S
N	E	A	S	T	F	O	N	D	R	A
E	A	S	T	E	U	S	E	R	A	M
A	S	T	E	R	O	S	O	F	A	R
S	T	E	R	O	P	A	S	T	E	M
T	E	R	O	P	A	S	T	E	M	T



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6 4 9 1 7 3 5 2 8

8 2 1 9 4 5 3 7 6

3 7 5 6 8 2 9 1 4

5 8 3 7 1 4 2 6 9

7 9 4 5 2 6 8 3 1

2 1 6 8 3 9 4 5 7

1 5 8 3 9 7 6 4 2

4 3 7 2 6 8 1 9 5

9 6 2 4 5 1 7 8 3

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Brave new world: Wartime tactics against coronavirus foe

By ARITZ PARRA
and LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Coronavirus deaths accelerated in Europe and soared to their highest levels ever in Italy on Friday, three weeks to the day since the nation identified its first cluster, and U.S. President Donald Trump prepared to invoke emergency powers as nations around the world warned of nearly wartime measures to contain the pandemic.

Tens of millions of students on three continents faced weeks without classes, security forces went on standby to guard against large gatherings of people, and bars, restaurants and offices closed Friday.

New cases and deaths leaped in Europe, and the virus edged ever closer to the world's power centers, with positive tests for the Canadian prime minister's wife, a top aide to Iran's supreme leader, Miami's mayor, a Brazilian official who met with President Donald Trump, and an Australian Cabinet minister who met with the U.S. attorney general and Trump's daughter, Ivanka.

France's president announced that leaders of the world's largest democracies, the G-7, would hold a video-conference summit Monday to discuss coordinating research on a vaccine and treatments, as well as an economic response. Trump prepared to invoke emergency powers to free up more federal resources, according to two people familiar with the planning who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Channeling wartime rhetoric and tactics in the face of a microscopic enemy, leaders appealed for solidarity to battle a threat that appeared to expand exponentially. They vowed to protect not just the sick, but those sacrificing their livelihoods and education for the greater good. But new border checks were also on the rise, showing that solidarity had its limits in the face of a fast-moving threat.

With promises of financial support from the European Commission, France and Germany, stocks clawed back some of their losses on Wall Street and in Europe a day after the market's worst session in over three decades.

In Italy, new infections soared by more than 2,500 and virus-related deaths made their biggest single day jump, increasing by 250. On Friday, three weeks to the day since the country identified its first virus cluster in the north, Italy had a total of 17,600 confirmed cases, with 1,266 deaths.

"Europe has now become the epicenter of the pandemic with more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from

China," said World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "More cases are now being reported every day than were reported in China at the height of its epidemic."

New infections also rose sharply in Spain, and the government put 60,000 people in four towns on a mandatory lockdown Friday that echoed Italy's. In Madrid, which is struggling with nearly 2,000 infections, many in nursing homes, the government was pooling intensive care units and considering offers by hotel chains to transform rooms into sick wards.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced a two-week state of emergency beginning Saturday and pledged to "mobilize all resources," including military, to contain the country's sharp rise in coronavirus cases.

"Victory depends on each of us, in our home, in our family, at work, in our neighborhood. To be a hero also means washing your hands, staying at home and protecting oneself in order to protect everybody else," he said in a televised message Friday.

In China, where new infections have tailed off, authorities mobilized to prevent a boomerang effect, quarantining new arrivals for 14 days. But the intensifying spread of COVID-19 beyond Asia dashed any hopes for containing the virus, despite drastic curbs on travel and social events.

In Europe and the United States, leaders and medical experts tried to predict the future — or at least the next few weeks — by scrutinizing the virus' trajectory so far, especially in China and Italy, the epicenters of Asia and Europe. Congress and the Trump administration closed in on a sweeping aid package with sick pay, free testing and other resources. The governors of six states — Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, New York, Rhode Island and Washington — sought National Guard troops.

The Italian town of Codogno, which had all but shut down hours after recording Italy's first locally spread coronavirus infection, showed that changing habits does make a difference. New infections have slowed drastically there compared to the rest of Italy, where draconian measures came far later.

"More than a sigh of relief, there was some concern over the risk that all of the sacrifices were in vain," said Mayor Francesco Passerini, who like most in the town wears a mask.

The goal is to slow the virus' spread to avoid overwhelming hospitals with those sickened by an illness that no one in the world has immunity to.

Worldwide, 137,000 people have been infected and more than 5,000 have died, but half

of those who had the virus have already recovered. Most patients have mild or moderate symptoms such as a fever or cold, but severe symptoms including pneumonia can occur, especially in the elderly and people with existing health problems.

While Washington scrambled to shape an economic rescue package, European officials pushed back against Trump's sharp restrictions on travel from Europe.

"Instead of tending to the problems of his country, and to a virus that knows no borders, he thinks that he can fight it like people that have a different citizenship than American," said German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz.

"But this is a virus, if I may say so, and it actually shows that solidarity is the only way that we can move forward as human beings."

New travel restrictions sprang up practically by the hour on Friday: Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Portugal, the Czech Republic — all started barring entry to Europeans considered at risk. Canada and Denmark joined the United States in advising citizens to avoid trips abroad, and Americans in Europe caught increasingly rare trans-Atlantic flights back home.

Exchange student Orsan Emge was trying to return to San Diego from Madrid.

"It hasn't been canceled yet, but it's heading in that direction," she said. "I want to get back to the United States before I have to be put in quarantine."

The exponential spread of the virus in Europe, North America and the Middle East has drawn contrasts with waning outbreaks in the hardest-hit nations in Asia. China, where the virus emerged late last year, still accounts for more than 60 percent of global infections but on Friday reported just eight new cases and seven deaths.

The size of permitted gatherings dwindled sharply in country after country, state after state. French President Emmanuel Macron, who announced the indefinite closure of all schools late Thursday, praised the French for taking action.

"That is what makes a great nation: Women and men able to put the collective interest above all, a human community held together by values:

Solidarity and fraternity," he said.

Macron pledged to maintain municipal elections scheduled for Sunday, but Britain postponed local elections due in May for a year and Canada suspended Parliament for five weeks. Louisiana became the first U.S. state to postpone its presidential primary.

The European Union urged member countries to put health screening procedures in place at their borders.

Chinese President Xi Jinping told the U.N. leader his nation was returning to normal and now wants to conduct joint research on drugs and vaccines and offer "as much assistance as it can" to countries in need. A Chinese medical crew arrived in Italy and surplus supplies were sent to Iran.

In South Korea, which had nearly 8,000 cases overall, Friday marked the first day recoveries outnumbered new infections since the country's first patient was confirmed Jan. 20.

Panic buying was seen around the continent.

In Italy's hardest-hit Lombardy region, hospitals were overflowing with both the sick and the dead. The country's restaurants, cafes and retail shops closed. Grocery stores, pharmacies and markets were allowed to operate, with orderly lines of evenly spaced customers forming outside to avoid crowds inside.

The U.S. Defense Department closed all schools on continental European military facilities, affecting tens of thousands of students.

In Iran, which exceeds 10,000 cases and 400 deaths, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif urged the Trump administration to immediately lift sanctions over the country's nuclear program. He said they made it difficult to import medicine and medical equipment.

State-run TV reported a positive test and home quarantine for Ali Akbar Velayati, a trusted adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 80-year-old leader of the Islamic Republic. Iran's senior vice president, Cabinet ministers, members of parliament, Revolutionary Guard members and Health Ministry officials are also infected.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was isolating himself after his wife tested positive. The Australian home affairs minister was hospitalized in isolation after testing positive. He returned home on Sunday from Washington, D.C., where he met with U.S. Attorney-General William Barr, Trump's daughter and Sen. Lindsey Graham, who has self-quarantined after also having contact with a Brazilian official who tested positive.

Despite also meeting with that Brazilian official at Mar-a-Lago, Trump has no immediate plans to be tested or to self-quarantine, the White House said. Trump did, however, halt his trademark political rallies, following the lead of Democratic rivals Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders.

Across the U.S., where cases have topped 1,700, a sense of urgency was pervasive. Professional athletes and entertainers were among those infected.

Iraq army says U.S. strikes kill 5 security forces, 1 civilian

By SAMYA KULLAB
and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's military said five security force members and a civilian were killed early Friday in a barrage of U.S. airstrikes launched hours after a rocket attack killed and wounded American and British servicemen at a base north of Baghdad.

An Iran-backed Shiite militia group vowed to exact revenge for the U.S. strikes, potentially signalling another cycle of tit-for-tat violence between Washington and Tehran that could play out inside Iraq.

U.S. officials said the airstrikes' intended targets were mainly weapons facilities belonging to Kataib Hezbollah, the militia group believed to be responsible for Wednesday's attack on Camp Taji.

However, Iraq's military said the strikes killed three Iraqi army commandos and two federal police officers. A Shi'ite endowment in the holy city of Karbala said the strikes resulted in the death of one civilian in an airport complex being constructed by the endowment.

A gaping crater was left in the wake of the U.S. airstrike outside Karbala's defunct airport. Iraqi forces inspected an area covered in shards of glass and debris.

Kataib Hezbollah did not immediately comment on the airstrikes. But Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba, an Iran-backed militia group designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S., vowed to retaliate with "an eye for an eye" in a statement Friday.

The Iraqi military statement also said the U.S. strikes wounded five militia members belonging to the Popular Mobilization Units, an umbrella group that comprises an array of Iraqi militia groups, some of them Iran-backed.

Wednesday's attack on Camp Taji was the deadliest to target U.S. troops in Iraq since a late December rocket attack on an Iraqi base that killed a U.S. contractor and set in motion a series of tit-for-tat attacks that brought Iraq to the brink of war.

American airstrikes targeting the Iran-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah led to protests at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

A U.S. drone strike in

Baghdad then killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a top commander responsible for expeditionary operations across the wider Mideast. Iran struck back with a ballistic missile attack on U.S. forces in Iraq, the Islamic Republic's most direct assault on America since the 1979 seizing of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The U.S. and Iran stepped back from further attacks after the Soleimani incident. A senior U.S. official said in late January, when U.S.-Iran tensions had cooled, that the killing of Americans constituted a red line that could spark more violence.

Iraq's military and senior officials condemned Friday's airstrikes, saying they were in breach of the country's sovereignty, potentially reversing an ease in U.S.-Iraq diplomatic tensions that reached fever pitch following the assassination of Soleimani on Iraqi soil.

The pretext that this attack came as a response to the aggressive action targeting Taji Camp is a false one, and leads to escalation without providing any solutions to control the situation," the statement said.

Iraq's caretaker Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi has already ordered an investigation into the rocket attack on Camp Taji, calling it "a very serious security challenge and hostile act."

Iraq's presidency said the continual violations of sovereignty constituted a "serious weakening" of the state's capabilities during a time when the country is facing unprecedented challenges politically, economically and by the coronavirus pandemic.

The statement called on the international community to support Iraq in respecting its sovereignty.

Senior political leaders Ammar al-Hakim of the Hikma Movement and Muqtada al-Sadr, head of the Saeroon bloc, warned against turning Iraq into an arena for conflict and called for restraint.

In Baghdad's Tahrir Square, the hub of a six-month protest movement, crowds gathered to reject the U.S. strike.

"We condemn the attacks on the Hashid al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Forces) facilities in Iraq," said Ali Muftah, a protester. "America and Iran threaten each other but ultimately Iraqis are the victims."

Spotty sick leave policies limit options for avoiding virus

By KELVIN CHAN
and MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writers

offer paid sick leave.

Some House and Senate Democrats have been pushing legislation that would require employers to allow workers to accrue seven days of paid sick leave and to provide an additional 14 days in the event of any public health emergency, including the current coronavirus crisis. President Donald Trump said he was seeking help for hourly-wage workers to ensure they're "not going to miss a paycheck," and he would outline the proposals Tuesday.

In Britain, parcel delivery driver Ed Cross worries about catching the virus from the machine he hands people who sign for their packages.

"People have coughed on their hand and then got hold of my machine and you sort of make a joke of it trying to point it out," Cross, 53, said. "But yeah, it's what we face daily."

"We only have to go to the wrong house and we could catch it, as simple as that," said Cross, who on a recent day handed packages to 110 people on his route in Whitby, northern England.

The British government last week made it easier to collect statutory sick pay and is working on changes to help millions of non-permanent workers like Cross who aren't eligible for it.

In a sign the industry is waking up to the problem, his parcel company, Hermes, announced a \$1.3 million fund to help couriers who need to self-isolate.

Uber, meanwhile, said it would compensate drivers and couriers for up to 14 days if they get sick or have to be quarantined.

The viral outbreak has revealed gaping holes in health care coverage at a time when people may need it most. Most European countries and Canada have universal healthcare systems, but the U.S. relies on a patchwork of public and private insurance. About 69 percent of private industry workers in the U.S. have access to healthcare benefits, but that drops to 43 percent of service workers.

U.S. employers with 50 or more employees are required to offer health insurance.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks,

while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the outbreak emerged in December, almost three-fourths of more than 80,000 patients have recovered.

While tech companies like Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft have implemented work-from-home policies, only 29 percent of U.S. workers have that option, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That means retail workers like Mendy Hughes must fend for themselves.

The Walmart cashier in Malvern, Arkansas, serves hundreds of people a day and her big worry is what will happen to her income if she catches the virus or comes in contact with someone who's had it and must self-quarantine for 14 days.

"If I can't go to work, I could try to take a leave but it will be unpaid," said Hughes, who earns \$11.60 an hour. "I don't know what I would be doing about taking care of my family."

Hughes, a diabetic and mother of four, gets 48 hours of sick leave a year but she fears it wouldn't be nearly enough time to recover.

On Tuesday, Walmart announced a new policy that might offer her some relief: employees who work in a region that is required to quarantine by the government or by the retailer, as well as those who have a confirmed case of the new virus, will receive two weeks of pay. If they are not able to return to work after that time, additional pay may be provided for up to 26 weeks for both full-time and part-time hourly workers.

In the United States, about 27 percent of private sector workers don't have access to paid sick leave, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Some countries, like Britain, are looking into helping out non-permanent workers.

There is no federal sick leave policy in the U.S., but 12 of the 50 states and Washington D.C. require employers to

"We are asking for gloves. We are asking for disinfectant gels, and masks for the drivers," said Bastien Berthier, of the Paris metro's UNSA

union.


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